

APIXADIS® 2,5 mg film-coated tablets

APIXABAN

Read this leaflet carefully before using this medicine as it contains important information for you.

- keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any questions, ask your doctor, pharmacist, or nurse.
- this medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This also applies to any side effect not mentioned in this leaflet. See section 4.

What is in this leaflet ?

1. What is APIXADIS and in which case is it used ?
2. What you need to know before you take APIXADIS ?
3. How to take APIXADIS ?
4. Possible side effects ?
5. How to store APIXADIS ?
6. Content of the packaging and other information ?

1. What is APIXADIS and in which case is it used ?
APIXADIS contains apixaban as an active substance and belongs to the class of medicines called anticoagulants. This medicine helps prevent blood clots from forming by blocking Factor Xa, which is an important part of blood clotting.

APIXADIS is for:
- To prevent blood clots (deep vein thrombosis [DVT] from forming after a total hip or knee replacement. After hip or knee surgery, you may have a higher risk of developing blood clots in the veins of your legs. This can lead to leg swelling which may or may not be painful. If a blood clot migrates from your legs to your lungs, it can block blood flow causing shortness of breath, with or without chest pain. This condition, pulmonary embolism, can threaten your life and requires immediate medical examination.

This condition, pulmonary embolism, can threaten your life and requires immediate medical examination. Blood clots can break off, migrates to the brain and cause a stroke, or to other organs and alter the blood supply to this organ (a condition called systemic embolism). Stroke can be life-threatening and requires immediate medical attention.
- to treat blood clots in the veins of your legs (deep vein thrombosis) and in the blood vessels of your lungs (pulmonary embolism), and to prevent blood clots from forming again in the blood vessels of your legs and/or your lungs.

2. What you need to know before you take APIXADIS

Never take APIXADIS if

- if you are allergic to apixaban or any of the other components of this medicine (listed in section 6)
- if you are subject to excessive bleeding
- if you have a pathology of an organ likely to aggravate the risk of serious bleeding (such as active or recent ulcer of the stomach or intestine, recent bleeding in the brain)
- if you have liver disease that increases the risk of bleeding (hepatic coagulopathy)

- if you are taking medicines that prevent blood clotting (eg warfarin or other vitamin K antagonists, rivaroxaban, dabigatran or heparin), unless changing anticoagulant therapy, if venous or arterial access has been established and you receive heparin in the line to prevent it from clogging, or if the tube is inserted into your blood vessel (catheter ablation) to treat an irregular heartbeat (arrhythmia).

Warnings and precautions

Tell your doctor, pharmacist or nurse before taking this medicine if any of the following apply to you:

- increased risk of bleeding, for example:
- bleeding disorders, including conditions resulting from reduced platelet activity
- very high blood pressure, not controlled by medical treatment
- if you are over 75
- if you weigh 60 kg or less
- severe kidney disease or if you are on dialysis
- liver problems or a history of liver problems
- APIXADIS should be used with caution in patients with signs of impaired liver function.
- a tube (catheter) or injection into your spine (for anaesthesia or

for pain relief), your doctor will tell you to take APIXADIS 5 hours or more after the catheter is removed

- if you have an artificial heart valve
- if you have a tube in this tube blood pressure is unstable or if another treatment or surgery to remove the blood clot from your lungs is planned

Be careful with APIXADIS

- if you know you have a condition called antiphospholipid syndrome (a disease of the immune system that causes an increased risk of blood clots), tell your doctor; he will decide if the processing should possibly be modified.

If you need surgery or a procedure that could cause bleeding, your doctor may ask you to temporarily stop taking this medicine for a short time. If you are unsure whether a procedure is likely to cause bleeding, ask your doctor for advice.

Children and adolescents

APIXADIS is not recommended for children and adolescents under 18 years old.

Other medicines and APIXADIS

Tell your doctor, pharmacist or nurse if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines. Some medicines can increase the effects of APIXADIS and others can decrease its effects.

Your doctor will decide if you should be treated with APIXADIS while taking any of the following medicines:
The following medicines may increase the effects of APIXADIS and the risk of unwanted bleeding :
- certain medicines for fungal infections (eg, ketoconazole, etc.)
- certain antiviral medicines for HIV/AIDS (for example, ritonavir)
- other medicines used to reduce blood clots (eg enoxaparin, etc.)
- anti-inflammatories or painkillers (for example, acetylsalicylic acid or naproxen).

Particularly if you are over 75 and taking acetylsalicylic acid you may have a higher risk of bleeding.

- medicines for high blood pressure or heart problems (for example, diltiazem)
- antidepressant medicines called selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors or serotonin norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors
- to treat blood clots in the veins of your legs (deep vein thrombosis) and in the blood vessels of your lungs (pulmonary embolism), and to prevent blood clots from forming again in the blood vessels of your legs and/or your lungs.

- medicines to prevent epilepsy or seizures (eg, phenytoin, etc.)

- St. John's wort (herbal preparation used for depression)

- medicines to treat tuberculosis or other infections (eg, rifampicin)

Pregnancy and breastfeeding

If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or plan to become pregnant, ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse for advice before taking this medicine.

The effects of apixaban on pregnancy and the unborn child are not known. If you are pregnant, you should not take APIXADIS. Contact your doctor immediately if you become pregnant while taking APIXADIS.

It is not known if apixaban passes into breast milk. Ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse for advice before taking this medicine while breast-feeding. They will recommend that you either stop breast-feeding or stop or not start taking APIXADIS.

Driving and using machines

apixaban has not shown to affect your ability to drive or use machines.

APIXADIS contains lactose (a type of sugar)

If your doctor has told you that you have an intolerance to certain sugars, contact him before taking this medicine.

3. How to take APIXADIS ?

Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor has told you, or your pharmacist or nurse if in doubt. Check with your doctor, pharmacist or nurse if in doubt.

Posology

Swallow the tablet with a glass of water. APIXADIS can be taken with or without meals.

Try to take the tablets at a set time each day to get the most benefit from your treatment.

If you have trouble swallowing the tablet whole, talk to your doctor about other ways to take APIXADIS. The tablet can be

crushed and mixed with water, or 5% dextrose, or apple juice or appleauce, immediately before taking it.

Instructions for crushing :

- Crush the tablets with a pestle and mortar.
- Carefully transfer all the powder to a suitable container then mix the powder with 30ml (2 tablespoons) for example of water or one of the other liquids mentioned above to make a mixture.
- Swallow the mixture.

• Rinse the mortar and pestle you used to crush the tablet and the container, with a little water or one of the other liquids (eg 30ml), and swallow the rinsing liquid.

If necessary, your doctor may also give you the crushed APIXADIS tablet mixed in 60 ml of water or 5% dextrose, through a nasogastric tube.

Always take APIXADIS as prescribed by your doctor, namely in the following situations :

For the prevention of blood clots after the installation of a total hip or knee prosthesis.

The recommended dose is one APIXADIS 2.5 mg tablet twice a day.

For example, one in the morning and one in the evening.

You should take the first tablet 12 to 24 hours after your operation.

If you have had major hip surgery you will usually take the tablets for 32-38 days.

Tell your doctor, pharmacist or nurse if you have had knee surgery you will usually take the tablets for 10-14 days.

For the prevention of blood clots in the heart in patients with irregular heartbeats and at least one additional risk factor.

The recommended dose is one APIXADIS 5 mg tablet twice a day.

The recommended dose is one APIXADIS 2.5 mg tablet twice a day in the following cases :

- you have significantly impaired kidney function
- you meet at least two of the following criteria:
 - your blood test kidney function (serum creatinine value of 1.5 mg/dL [133 micromoles/L] or higher)
 - you are at least 80 years old
 - your weight is less than or equal to 60 kg.

The recommended dose is one tablet twice a day, for example, one in the morning and one in the evening.

Your doctor will decide how long you should continue this treatment.

To treat blood clots in the veins of your legs and blood clots in the blood vessels of your lungs.

The recommended dose is two tablets of APIXADIS 5 mg twice a day for the first 7 days, for example, two in the morning and two in the evening.

Beyond 7 days, the recommended dose is one APIXADIS 5 mg tablet twice a day, for example, one in the morning and one in the evening.

To prevent recurrence of blood clots after 6 months of treatment

The recommended dose is one APIXADIS 2.5 mg tablet twice a day, for example, one in the morning and one in the evening.

Your doctor will decide how long you should continue this treatment.

Your doctor may change your anticoagulant treatment as follows :

- Switching from APIXADIS to anticoagulant medications

Stop taking APIXADIS. Start treatment with anticoagulant medicines (eg heparin) when you have to take the next tablet.

Stop taking anticoagulant medicines (eg, heparin). Start treatment with APIXADIS when you were due to take the next dose of the anticoagulant medicine, then continue as normal.

- Changing from an anticoagulant treatment containing a vitamin K antagonist (eg, warfarin) to APIXADIS.

Stop taking the medicine containing a vitamin K antagonist. Your doctor will need to perform certain blood tests and tell you when to stop taking APIXADIS.

- Changing from anticoagulant therapy containing a vitamin K antagonist (eg, warfarin)

If your doctor tells you that you need to start taking a medicine containing a vitamin K antagonist, continue to take APIXADIS for at least two days after your first dose of the medicine containing a vitamin K antagonist. Your doctor will need to perform certain blood tests and tell you when to stop taking APIXADIS.

Patients benefiting from cardioversion

If your abnormal heart rhythm needs to be restored to normal by a procedure called cardioversion, take APIXADIS at the times

told by your doctor to prevent blood clots from forming in blood vessels in the brain and other blood vessels in your body.

If you take more APIXADIS than you should

Contact your doctor immediately if you take more APIXADIS than prescribed.

Take the box with you, even if there are no more tablets.

If you take more APIXADIS than recommended, you may be at increased risk of bleeding. If bleeding occurs, surgery, blood transfusions, or other treatments that can reverse anti-Factor Xa activity may be needed.

If you forget to take APIXADIS

- Take the missed dose as soon as you remember and :
- take the next dose of APIXADIS at the usual time

then continue your treatment as normal.

Always be sure what to do or if you have forgotten to take more than one dose, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.

If you stop taking APIXADIS

Do not stop taking APIXADIS without talking to your doctor first as there may be a higher risk of a blood clot forming if you stop treatment too soon.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.

4. Possible side effects

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everyone gets them. APIXADIS can be administered for three different types of pathologies. Known side effects and their frequencies in each of these conditions may vary and are listed separately. For these pathologies, the most common general adverse effect of apixaban is the occurrence of bleeding, which can potentially be life-threatening and require immediate attention.

The following side effects have been seen with apixaban in the prevention of blood clots after total hip or knee replacement.

Common side effects (may affect up to 1 in 10 people)

- Anemia which can cause fatigue and pallor

- Skin rash

- Blood tests showing :
- abnormal liver function

- an increase in certain liver enzymes

- an increase in bilirubin, a decrease in the production of red blood cells, which can cause yellowing of the skin and eyes.

- Itching

Rare side effects (may affect up to 1 in 100 people)

- Allergic (hypersensitivity) reactions which may cause swelling of the face, lips, mouth, tongue and/or throat and difficulty breathing. Contact your doctor immediately if you experience any of these symptoms.

Bleeding :

- following your operation including bruising and swelling, blood or fluid coming out of the wound/surgical incision (oozing from the wound) or injection site

- in your stomach, intestines, or presence of red/clear blood in the stool

- in the urine

- of your nose

- of your vagina

- Low blood pressure which can cause fainting or rapid heartbeat

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- abnormal liver function

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Rare side effects (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people)

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Bleeding :

- in a muscle

- in your eyes

- from your nose and in your sputum when you cough

- of your rectum

- in your lungs or spine

- in your mouth

- in your abdomen or in the space at the back of your abdominal cavity

- from a hemorrhoid

- laboratory tests revealing blood in the stool or urine

- Skin rash

The following side effects have been seen with apixaban for the

prevention of blood clots in the heart in patients with irregular heartbeat and at least one additional risk factor.

Common side effects (may affect up to 1 in 10 people)

- Bleeding, especially:

- in your eyes

- in your stomach or intestine

- of your rectum

- in the urine

- of your nose

- Low blood pressure which can cause fainting or rapid heartbeat

- Nausea (feeling sick)

- Blood tests that may show:

- an increase in gamma-glutamyltransferase (GGT)

Uncommon side effects (may affect up to 1 in 100 people)

- Bleeding :

- in your brain or spine

- in your mouth or blood in your sputum when you cough

- in your abdomen or in the space at the back of your abdominal cavity

- bleeding after your operation including bruising and swelling, blood or fluid leaking from the surgical wound/incision (wound secretion) or injection site

- laboratory tests revealing blood in the stool or urine

- Decreased number of platelets in your blood (which can affect clotting)

- Blood tests that may show:

- abnormal liver function

- an increase in certain liver enzymes

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