

## WHAT ABOUT TAKING OTHER MEDICINES?

Your medicines will be reviewed before you start rivaroxaban and any necessary changes will be made, as other medicines may interact with rivaroxaban. It is important you check with your pharmacist or doctor before starting any additional medicines or herbal remedies or before stopping any existing ones.

- Avoid aspirin and aspirin containing medicines unless prescribed by your doctor
- Avoid non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs like ibuprofen (Nurofen®) which is available over the counter.
- Paracetamol and codeine-based pain killers are acceptable.
- It is advisable to purchase all medicines from one pharmacy and inform them you are taking rivaroxaban

## WHAT ABOUT PREGNANCY OR BREASTFEEDING?

Rivaroxaban is not recommended during pregnancy or breastfeeding.

- If you are planning to become pregnant please inform your doctor who may switch you to an alternative drug.
- Women of childbearing age should use a reliable contraceptive while taking the anticoagulant.
- If you are on rivaroxaban and your period is 1 week overdue and you think you may be pregnant, do a pregnancy test. If the pregnancy test is positive, you should contact your doctor urgently. If the test is negative, re-test every 3 days until either the period arrives or the test is positive.
- Breastfeeding is not recommended while taking rivaroxaban. Alternative anticoagulants can be used when you are breastfeeding.

## CAN I PARTICIPATE IN CONTACT SPORTS?

If you are involved in contact sport, discuss this with your doctor or DOAC Clinic.

## CAN I CONSUME ALCOHOL?

It is recommended that you do not exceed the recommended upper limit of 2 standard drinks per day.

1 standard drink:

=1 glass or half pint of beer, lager or stout

=1 small glass of wine (100 mL)

=1 single measure of spirits, e.g. whiskey or vodka or gin.

## WHAT ABOUT TRAVEL?

Ensure you have enough rivaroxaban with you for your trip and carry it in your hand luggage.

## DO NOT STOP TAKING THIS MEDICATION WITHOUT FIRST TALKING TO YOUR DOCTOR

Carry your anticoagulant alert card with you and wear an alert bracelet. Show your alert card to your Doctor, pharmacist, dentist or nurse at each visit

Visit [www.hpra.ie](http://www.hpra.ie) and search 'rivaroxaban' to get further information on this drug.

For **urgent care** please go to your nearest emergency department immediately.

Please enter your DOAC Clinic contact details here:

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# Rivaroxaban (Xarelto®)

## Patient Information Leaflet



Scan the QR code to access the  
**DOAC Patient Information Video**  
Access at: [www.bit.ly/doacncc](http://www.bit.ly/doacncc)

The information provided in this leaflet is not exhaustive, please refer to the patient information provided with rivaroxaban for full detailed information and/or discuss with your doctor/pharmacist.



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This leaflet was developed by the National Coagulation Centre in conjunction with Thrombosis Ireland.

## WHAT IS RIVAROXABAN?

Rivaroxaban is one of a group of anticoagulants called Direct Oral AntiCoagulants (DOACs). Rivaroxaban does this by interfering with a substance in the body called Factor Xa which is involved in the development of blood clots.

Rivaroxaban has been licenced in adults for:-

- Prevention of blood clots in patients who have knee or hip replacement surgery
- Treatment and prevention of blood clots in your legs, i.e. Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT)) or in your lungs, i.e. Pulmonary Embolus (PE).
- Prevention of stroke in patients with non-valvular atrial fibrillation (irregular heartbeat)
- Rivaroxaban with aspirin alone or with aspirin plus clopidogrel for the treatment of acute coronary syndrome (ACS), coronary artery disease (CAD) or peripheral arterial disease (PAD).

**If you are being switched from warfarin to rivaroxaban then warfarin must be discontinued, both agents should not be taken at the same time.**

## CAN ANYONE TAKE RIVAROXABAN?

No, not everyone can take rivaroxaban. If you have a history of gastro-intestinal bleeding or surgery to remove your stomach, alternative anticoagulation should be used.

## WHAT DOSE OF RIVAROXABAN SHOULD I TAKE?

The dose varies from patient to patient and depends on why you require the anticoagulant. Your prescribing doctor/pharmacist will explain your dose in detail.

## WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF RIVAROXABAN?

Like all medicines, rivaroxaban can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them. Like other similar medicines (medicines to reduce blood clotting), rivaroxaban may cause bleeding which can potentially be life-threatening. In some cases the bleeding may not be obvious.

**Please attend the Emergency department immediately if you suffer major trauma or a blow to the head or unable to stop bleeding and inform the healthcare professional that you are taking rivaroxaban.**

**Consult your doctor immediately if you have:**

- Bloody, black or tarry bowel motions
- Blood in the urine
- Coughing up or vomiting blood or material that looks like coffee grounds
- Nose bleeds (that last longer than 10 minutes)

**Please inform your doctor if you have:**

- Heavy menstrual bleeding
- Nosebleeds (that last less than 10 minutes)
- Bleeding from your gums
- Unusual or extensive bruising
- Exceptional weakness
- Tiredness
- Paleness
- Dizziness
- Headache
- Unexplained swelling

## HOW LONG WILL I NEED TO TAKE RIVAROXABAN FOR?

The length of treatment depends on the condition requiring treatment. Some people need treatment for a short time, e.g. three months, while others will need to continue rivaroxaban indefinitely. Your doctor will discuss this with you when you start the treatment.

**Please inform the healthcare professional treating you that you are taking rivaroxaban, this includes anyone who prescribes medication for you or anyone who plans to carry out a procedure or surgery on you, for example, your dentist or surgeon, and inform them well in advance of the date of procedure.**

## HOW AND WHEN SHOULD I TAKE MY RIVAROXABAN?

Rivaroxaban must be taken with food. It does not require any special dietary instructions or requirements.

## DOES RIVAROXABAN NEED TO BE MONITORED?

Rivaroxaban levels do not require routine monitoring. However, we recommend that your kidney and liver function is checked prior to starting treatment and at least once a year. If you develop abnormal kidney function your dose may need to be reduced. Discuss with prescriber, GP or DOAC clinic.

## WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I MISS A DOSE?

During the first three weeks of being treated for deep vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolism, if you miss the morning dose you can take it together with your dose in the evening. After three weeks you should switch to a once daily dose.

**If you have missed a dose or taken too much of your rivaroxaban and you are unsure of what to do, contact the DOAC clinic or your pharmacist for advice.**