



Novel Oral Anticoagulants (NOACs)

Medication Name	Brand Name
○ Apixaban	○ Eliquis
○ Dabigatran	○ Pradaxa
○ Rivaroxaban	○ Xarelto

What is it used for?

These medications are a newer form of anticoagulant, which are commonly referred to as “blood thinners”. They prevent the formation of harmful clots by inhibiting a blood clotting protein in the blood.

They are often prescribed to prevent blood clots in your veins after hip or knee replacement surgery or for treatment or prevention of new clots forming in the veins in your legs or lungs. You may also be prescribed these medications to prevent clots in your brain (causing stroke) or other blood vessels when you have an irregular heart rhythm called atrial fibrillation. It may be used instead of warfarin, however are not commonly used in people with heart valve issues.

How to take this medication

This medication must be taken regularly and is usually prescribed to be taken morning and evening. If a dose is missed, only take the dose if you remember within three hours. If not, take the next dose when it is due normally. Do not take the missed dose or two doses at once.

Take this medication only as the directions say on the pharmacy label.

Before taking this medication it is important to tell your Doctor if you:

- Are pregnant or plan to get pregnant
- Are breastfeeding
- Are taking medication for fungal infections
- Are taking medications for anxiety or depression
- Have any liver, kidney or heart valve issues
- Recently had or plan to have any surgical procedures or operations
- Participate in any activities that may result in traumatic injury such as contact sports
- Have had previous reactions to blood thinning medication
- Have bleeding tendencies or abnormal blood cells

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Side Effects

Side effects occur in some people taking this medication. If you have any concerns speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

- Bruising more than normal
- Dizziness, light-headedness, tiredness
- Headache
- Nausea or bowel issues
- Persistent cough

If you experience any bleeding in urine or bowel motions or significant bleeding from other parts of your body, you should seek medical advice.

This list does not include every possible side effect that can occur. Please refer to the information sheet about your medication or discuss these with your doctor or pharmacist.

Other important facts

- Tell your doctor all the medications you take, including those you get without a prescription
- Never stop taking your medication without speaking to your doctor
- Never share your medicines with anyone
- Keep the medicine out of reach of children

In case of overdose or accidental ingestion call the Poisons Information Centre on 131 126 -24 hours a day, 7 days a week anywhere in Australia.

If you have any queries about your medications, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.

This information is only designed for use as an educational aid and is general in nature.

This resource was produced using information from the National Prescribing Service website (nps.org.au)