

Ensuring NHS resources are used as effectively
as possible for all our patients

Edoxaban in Non-Valvular Atrial Fibrillation

Patient Information

What is Edoxaban?

Atrial fibrillation (AF) is a heart condition that causes an irregular and abnormally fast heart rate.

People with atrial fibrillation are more at risk of having a stroke due to the way their heart beats - there is a risk of blood clots forming in the heart chambers. Edoxaban is used for treating AF and reduces the risk of stroke. Edoxaban belongs to group of medicines known as anticoagulants. It stops your blood from clotting and can help lower your risk of having a stroke.

Why Edoxaban?

Edoxaban is the preferred anticoagulant locally. Using edoxaban instead of other anticoagulants will help your local NHS to treat more patients. This is because two patients can be treated with edoxaban in comparison to one patient treated with another anticoagulant.

How to take Edoxaban?

Edoxaban is taken ONCE a day and can be taken with or without food, swallowing the whole tablet, preferably with water.

Try to take your Edoxaban regularly at the same time each day, and continue to do so unless your doctor tells you to stop.

If you have difficulty swallowing the tablet whole, talk to a doctor or pharmacist about other ways to take Edoxaban.

What if I take too much?

Ask a pharmacist, doctor or anticoagulant clinic for advice straight away. Taking too much Edoxaban puts you at risk of bleeding.

What if I forget to take Edoxaban?

If you are taking Edoxaban once a day and you miss your dose, take it as soon as you remember. If you only remember the following day, take your next dose at the usual time.

Never take more than ONE dose of Edoxaban in a single day. If you often forget doses, it may help to set an alarm to remind yourself. You could ask a pharmacist for advice on other ways to remember taking your medicines.

Can I drink alcohol with Edoxaban?

You can drink alcohol in moderation in line with NHS guidance while taking edoxaban, but heavy drinking, especially binge drinking, can make you more likely to bleed.

Side effects

Like all medicines, edoxaban can cause side effects, although not everyone gets them. Side effects are usually mild and don't last long. The most common side-effects are indigestion and/or minor bruising.

Other common side-effects include:

- Tiredness and lack of energy, shortness of breath, noticeable heartbeats (heart palpitations) and paler than usual skin.
- Feeling dizzy or light-headed.

Speak to a doctor or pharmacist on what to do if side effects are bothering you or do not go away.

For a full list of possible side-effects see the leaflet that comes with your Edoxaban pack.

Driving and using machines

Edoxaban has no effects on your ability to drive or use machines.

Bleeding and what to do about it?

While edoxaban has enormous benefits, it is important to be aware that edoxaban may cause bleeding. This is because while you are taking edoxaban, your blood will not clot as easily.

Less serious bleeding

It is usual to bleed more easily than normal while you are taking edoxaban. The kind of bleeding you might have includes:

- periods that are heavier and last longer than usual.
- bleeding for a little longer than usual if you cut yourself.
- occasional nosebleeds (that last for less than 10 minutes).
- bleeding from your gums when brushing your teeth.
- bruises that come up more easily and take longer to fade than usual.

This type of bleeding is not dangerous and should stop by itself. If it happens, keep taking the Edoxaban, but tell a doctor if the bleeding bothers you or does not stop.

General advice on Edoxaban and managing less serious bleeding can be found here:
www.nhs.uk/medicines/edoxaban/side-effects-of-edoxaban

When to seek medical advice

Serious bleeding

Occasionally, you can have heavy bleeding from taking edoxaban. This can be dangerous and needs urgent medical attention. It is therefore important to be aware of the possible signs & symptoms of excessive bleeding:

- passing blood in your urine.
- passing blood when you poo or having black poo.
- severe bruising.
- prolonged nosebleeds (lasting longer than 10 minutes).
- vomiting blood or coughing up blood.
- sudden severe back pain.
- difficulty breathing or chest pain.

- in women, heavy or increased bleeding during your periods, or any other bleeding from your vagina.
- unexplained tiredness.

WARNING

If you experience any bleeding event that does not stop by itself or if you experience signs of excessive bleeding (exceptional weakness, tiredness, paleness, dizziness, headache or unexplained swelling) call 999 for an ambulance OR go to your nearest accident and emergency (A&E) department.

ALERT CARD

You will need to carry an anticoagulant alert card with you at all times. If you have an accident, it is important that the person treating you knows you are taking an anticoagulant. Each pack of edoxaban tablets includes an alert card.

Summary of key points

- Do NOT stop taking edoxaban without talking to a doctor first, because edoxaban prevents and treats against blood clots and strokes.
- Edoxaban should be taken once a day preferably at the same time each day
- Never take more than one dose of Edoxaban per day
- Do not take any other medication without consulting a doctor or pharmacist, not even short term painkillers that you can get without prescription.
- Alert a dentist, surgeon or another clinician before any procedure.
- Drinking heavily, especially binge drinking lots of alcohol in one go, is dangerous while taking edoxaban. The alcohol can increase the risk of bleeding.

IMPORTANT

Please refer to the leaflet and alert card inside each box of your edoxaban pack for complete and up to date information.

Contact Us

If you require further advice or have any queries regarding information in this leaflet please contact your surgery.

