



What's my Drug?

Apixaban is an anticoagulant. It is used to prevent blood clots from forming following hip or knee replacement surgery, or if you are at high risk of getting a deep vein thrombosis. It can also be used in atrial fibrillation to prevent clots from getting into the bloodstream and causing things like stroke. It is also used in the treatment of pulmonary embolism.

How to take it: Take it with a small glass of water. If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember and take the next dose when it is due (but do not take double on the same day to make up for missing a dose). If you cannot swallow a whole tablet you can crush it carefully and mix it with a little water or apple puree just before you take it.

Possible side effects include: Unexpected bruising or bleeding e.g. if your stools go dark, or if you get cloudy or dark urine, or nosebleeds. These could be signs you are getting too much of the medicine. If you get this tell your doctor straight away. Other side effects include sickness, skin rashes, and anaemia.

Rare but important side effects include: It can make periods heavier for women. The risk of having a different sort of stroke caused by a bleed rather than a clot is slightly increased while on treatment. So if you get a sudden severe headache, which is different from anything you have had before see a doctor straight away.

Warnings and Cautions: If you suffer a major injury, a significant head injury, or cannot stop bleeding from an injury you should get medical attention straight away. You should avoid contact sports while on this treatment, if in doubt ask your health professional for advice. This medicine doesn't mix well with some other medications, including certain antidepressants, and NSAID medicines like ibuprofen, aspirin, and St John's wort. So, check with your health professional if necessary. This treatment is usually stopped at least 48 hours before surgery. Read the additional information leaflet that comes with this medication packet. For women: this medicine is not usually used in pregnancy or during breastfeeding.

Note: You will be given an alert card while on this treatment. Make sure to carry it with you at all times.