

Your Discussion Guide



If you are at **risk of stroke due to atrial fibrillation (AFib)**, a type of irregular heartbeat, not caused by a heart valve problem, this guide can help you have a productive discussion at your next doctor appointment. Remember, the questions below are suggestions for topics you can discuss and are not meant to provide medical advice.

Check the questions you want to ask your doctor

To make sure you get the answers you need, **review the questions below and select the ones that are most important to you.** Then consider how much time you will have with your doctor and plan your questions accordingly.

i **Be sure to discuss the benefits, risks, and potential side effects of ELIQUIS® (apixaban) with your doctor. See below for Important Safety Information, including Boxed WARNINGS, for ELIQUIS.**

UNDERSTANDING AFIB & STROKE RISK

- ☐ What is AFib not caused by a heart valve problem and what are possible signs and symptoms?
- ☐ How does AFib not caused by a heart valve problem increase risk of stroke?
- ☐ Do I have a higher risk of stroke even if I don't feel symptoms?
- ☐ What can I do to reduce my risk of stroke?

UNDERSTANDING BLOOD THINNERS

- ☐ Why do doctors prescribe blood thinners to reduce the risk of stroke for people with AFib not caused by a heart valve problem?
- ☐ How do blood thinners reduce risk of stroke due to AFib not caused by a heart valve problem?
- ☐ Why do blood thinners increase risk of bleeding?
- ☐ What are some possible signs and symptoms of bleeding?
- ☐ What is considered major bleeding and minor bleeding when taking a blood thinner?
- ☐ How do I know if bleeding or bruising is serious enough to seek medical help?

LEARNING ABOUT ELIQUIS

- ☐ What are the benefits and risks of ELIQUIS?
- ☐ Is there anything else I need to know if I switch to ELIQUIS?
- ☐ How long should I take ELIQUIS?
- ☐ Who should not take ELIQUIS?
- ☐ How do I know ELIQUIS is working without routine blood monitoring?
- ☐ Do I need to change my diet while taking ELIQUIS?
- ☐ Is ELIQUIS right for me?

INDICATION

ELIQUIS (apixaban) is a prescription medicine used to reduce the risk of stroke and blood clots in people who have atrial fibrillation (AFib), a type of irregular heartbeat, not caused by a heart valve problem.

SELECTED IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

For people taking ELIQUIS® (apixaban) for atrial fibrillation: Do not stop taking ELIQUIS without talking to the doctor who prescribed it for you. Stopping ELIQUIS increases your risk of having a stroke.

ELIQUIS may need to be stopped prior to surgery or a medical or dental procedure. Your doctor will tell you when you should stop taking ELIQUIS and when you may start taking it again. If you have to stop taking ELIQUIS, your doctor may prescribe another medicine to help prevent a blood clot from forming.

ELIQUIS can cause bleeding, which can be serious, and rarely may lead to death. This is because ELIQUIS is a blood thinner medicine that reduces blood clotting.

Please see additional Important Safety Information on pages 2 and 3, and [U.S. Full Prescribing Information](#), including **Boxed WARNINGS** and [Medication Guide](#), or visit [ELIQUIS.com](#).



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Eliquis
(apixaban) tablets 5mg
25mg

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Notes

Before taking ELIQUIS® (apixaban), tell your doctor if you have any of the following:

- ☐ Kidney or liver problems
- ☐ Antiphospholipid syndrome
- ☐ Any other medical condition
- ☐ Bleeding problems
- ☐ Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant
- ☐ Are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. (You and your doctor should decide if you should take ELIQUIS or breastfeed. You should not do both.)

Females who are able to become pregnant: talk with your healthcare provider about pregnancy planning, and your risk of severe uterine bleeding if you are treated with blood thinner medicines, including ELIQUIS.

SELECTED IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

You may have a higher risk of bleeding if you take ELIQUIS and take other medicines that increase your risk of bleeding, such as aspirin, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (called NSAIDs), warfarin, heparin, selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) or serotonin norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs), and other medicines to help prevent or treat blood clots. **Tell your doctor about all of the medicines you take**, including any over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

While taking ELIQUIS, you may bruise more easily and it may take longer than usual for any bleeding to stop.

Call your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of these signs or symptoms of bleeding when taking ELIQUIS:

- unexpected bleeding or bleeding that lasts a long time, such as unusual bleeding from the gums, nosebleeds that happen often, or menstrual or vaginal bleeding that is heavier than normal
- bleeding that is severe or you cannot control
- red, pink, or brown urine; red or black stools (looks like tar)
- coughing up or vomiting blood or vomit that looks like coffee grounds
- unexpected pain, swelling, or joint pain
- headaches, or feeling dizzy or weak

ELIQUIS (apixaban) is not for patients with artificial heart valves.

Please see additional Important Safety Information on page 3, and *U.S. Full Prescribing Information*, including **Boxed WARNINGS** and *Medication Guide*, or visit ELIQUIS.com.

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Is there anything else you'd like to ask?

Use the space below to write down any other questions you would like to ask your doctor.

Make a list of all the medications and supplements you are currently taking

You should bring a list of all the medications and supplements you take to your appointment. Some medicines may affect the way ELIQUIS® (apixaban) works and certain medicines may increase your risk of bleeding or stroke when taken with ELIQUIS.



Be sure to bring this guide to your next appointment

SELECTED IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

Spinal or epidural blood clots (hematoma). People who take ELIQUIS, and have medicine injected into their spinal and epidural area, or have a spinal puncture have a risk of forming a blood clot that can cause long-term or permanent loss of the ability to move (paralysis). Your risk of developing a spinal or epidural blood clot is higher if:

- a thin tube called an epidural catheter is placed in your back to give you certain medicine
- you take NSAIDs or a medicine to prevent blood from clotting
- you have a history of difficult or repeated epidural or spinal punctures
- you have a history of problems with your spine or have had surgery on your spine

If you take ELIQUIS and receive spinal anesthesia or have a spinal puncture, your doctor should watch you closely for symptoms of spinal or epidural blood clots or bleeding. Tell your doctor right away if you have tingling, numbness, or muscle weakness, especially in your legs and feet.

ELIQUIS is not for use in people with antiphospholipid syndrome (APS), especially with positive triple antibody testing, who have a history of blood clots.

Do not take ELIQUIS if you currently have certain types of abnormal bleeding or have had a serious allergic reaction to ELIQUIS.

Before you take ELIQUIS, tell your doctor if you have kidney or liver problems, have antiphospholipid syndrome, have any other medical condition, or have ever had bleeding problems. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or breastfeeding, or plan to become pregnant or breastfeed. You and your doctor should decide if you will take ELIQUIS or breastfeed. You should not do both. **Females who are able to become pregnant:** talk with your healthcare provider about pregnancy planning, and your risk of severe uterine bleeding if you are treated with blood thinner medicines, including ELIQUIS.

Take ELIQUIS exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Take ELIQUIS twice every day with or without food, and do not change your dose or stop taking it unless your doctor tells you to. If you miss a dose of ELIQUIS, take it as soon as you remember, and do not take more than one dose at the same time. **If you are taking ELIQUIS for atrial fibrillation, stopping ELIQUIS may increase your risk of having a stroke. Do not run out of ELIQUIS. Refill your prescription before you run out.** When leaving the hospital following hip or knee replacement, be sure that you will have ELIQUIS available to avoid missing any doses.

Possible serious side effects include bleeding or a reaction to ELIQUIS itself. A reaction to ELIQUIS can cause hives, rash, itching, and possibly trouble breathing. If you get this reaction, it will usually happen soon after you take a dose of ELIQUIS. Get medical help right away if you have sudden chest pain or chest tightness, have sudden swelling of your face or tongue, have trouble breathing, wheezing, or feeling dizzy or faint.

Please see additional Important Safety Information throughout, and *U.S. Full Prescribing Information*, including **Boxed WARNINGS** and *Medication Guide*, or visit [ELIQUIS.com](https://www.ELIQUIS.com).



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