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Information for the public

Rivaroxaban to treat pulmonary embolism and to prevent further venous thromboembolism

NICE 'technology appraisal guidance' advises on when and how drugs and other treatments should be used in the NHS.

This document is about when rivaroxaban should be used to treat adults with pulmonary embolism and prevent further venous thromboembolism in the NHS in England and Wales. It explains guidance (advice) from NICE (the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence). It is written for adults who have had a pulmonary embolism but it may also be useful for their families or carers or for anyone with an interest in the condition.

It does not describe pulmonary embolism or venous thromboembolism or the treatments in detail – a member of your healthcare team should discuss these with you. You can get more information from the organisations listed on page 4.

This may not be the only possible treatment for pulmonary embolism and to prevent further venous thromboembolism. Your healthcare team should talk to you about whether it is suitable for you and about other treatment options available.

What has NICE said?

NICE recommends rivaroxaban as a possible treatment for adults with pulmonary embolism and to prevent a further deep vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolism.

Why has NICE said this?

NICE looks at how well treatments work, and also at how well they work in relation to how much they cost the NHS. NICE recommended rivaroxaban because its cost is justified by the benefits it provides.

Pulmonary embolism and venous thromboembolism

When a blood clot forms and is carried in the blood to a part of the body where it can cause problems, it is called venous thromboembolism. If the clot is carried to the lungs, it is called a pulmonary embolism, which can be fatal. A clot in one of the deep veins in the leg, thigh, pelvis or arm is called a deep vein thrombosis.

Rivaroxaban

Rivaroxaban (also called Xarelto) is a drug that is used to treat blood clots and to prevent blood clots from forming in blood vessels. It does this by stopping a substance called Factor Xa from working, which is necessary in the formation of blood clots.

What does this mean for me?

When NICE recommends a treatment, the NHS must make sure it is available to those people it could help, normally within 3 months of the guidance being issued.

So, if you have had a pulmonary embolism, and you and your doctor think that rivaroxaban is the right treatment for you (see 'What has NICE said?' on page 2), you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS. Please see www.nice.org.uk/aboutguidance if you think you are eligible for the treatment but it is not available.

More information

The organisations below can provide more information and support for people with rivaroxaban. NICE is not responsible for the quality or accuracy of any information or advice provided by these organisations.

- AntiCoagulation Europe, 0208 289 6875
www.anticoagulationeurope.org
- Thrombosis UK, 0300 772 9603
www.thrombosisuk.org

NHS Choices (www.nhs.uk) may be a good place to find out more. If you live in Wales you should speak to NHS Direct Wales for information on who to contact.

About NICE

NICE provides national guidance and advice to improve health and social care. The guidance is written by independent experts, including healthcare professionals and people representing patients and carers. They consider the evidence on the condition and treatments, the views of patients and carers and the experiences of doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals, and consider the costs involved. Staff working in the NHS are expected to follow this guidance.

To find out more about NICE, its work and how it reaches decisions, see www.nice.org.uk/aboutguidance

This document and other versions of the guidance aimed at healthcare professionals are available at www.nice.org.uk/guidance/TA287

The NICE website has a screen reader service called Browsealoud, which allows you to listen to our guidance. Click on [Accessibility](#) at the bottom of the NICE homepage to use this service.

We encourage NHS and voluntary organisations to use text from this document in their own information about pulmonary embolism and venous thromboembolism.

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