

Rivaroxaban for preventing adverse outcomes after acute management of acute coronary syndrome

Information for the public
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What has NICE said?

Rivaroxaban (also known as Xarelto) with aspirin alone, or with [aspirin plus clopidogrel](#), is recommended. It is a possible treatment for adults who have had a certain type of heart problem ([acute coronary syndrome with raised cardiac biomarkers](#)). The aim is to prevent further problems, such as heart attack or stroke, caused by blood clots.

What does this mean for me?

If you have had an acute coronary syndrome with raised cardiac biomarkers, and your doctor thinks that rivaroxaban is the right treatment, you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS.

Your doctor should discuss with you the benefits and risks of taking rivaroxaban before starting or continuing treatment. No later than 12 months after starting treatment, your doctor should reassess your condition and make a decision on whether to continue treatment.

Rivaroxaban should be available on the NHS within 3 months of the guidance being issued.

Why has NICE said this?

NICE looks at how well treatments work in relation to how much they cost compared with other treatments available on the NHS.

Rivaroxaban was recommended because it works better than some other treatments available on the NHS, and costs about the same.

The condition and the treatment

Acute coronary syndrome is the term used for a group of heart problems. It includes unstable angina and heart attacks. These are heart problems that cause chest pain or discomfort. The pain is caused by a blockage or narrowing of one of the main blood vessels in the heart (coronary arteries). After an acute coronary syndrome, people may have raised levels of cardiac biomarkers in their blood. Cardiac biomarkers are proteins that are released into the blood when heart muscle has been damaged.

People who have had an acute coronary syndrome are at risk of having further problems, such as a heart attack or stroke, caused by blood clots.

Rivaroxaban (also known as Xarelto) is a drug that can reduce or prevent blood clots forming. It can be used for people who have had an acute coronary syndrome if a blood test shows they have raised cardiac biomarkers. People taking rivaroxaban should also take aspirin, or aspirin with clopidogrel, every day. Aspirin and clopidogrel are drugs that help prevent blood clotting.

Sources of advice and support

- Pumping Marvellous, 0800 9788 133, www.pumpingmarvellous.org

- British Heart Foundation, 0300 330 3311, www.bhf.org.uk
- British Cardiac Patient's Association, 0122 384 6845, www.bcpa.co.uk
- South Asian Health Foundation, 020 3313 0677, www.sahf.org.uk

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Accreditation

