Edoxaban for treating and for preventing deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism

Information for the public
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www.nice.org.uk

What has NICE said?

Edoxaban (Lixiana) is recommended as an option for treating and preventing recurrent deep vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolism.

What does this mean for me?

If you have deep vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolism and your doctor thinks that edoxaban is the right treatment, you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS.

Edoxaban 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.

Edoxaban was recommended because it works as well and costs about the same as other treatments available on the NHS.

The conditions and the treatment

When a blood clot forms in one of the deep veins in the leg, thigh, pelvis or arm it is called a deep vein thrombosis. The clot itself is not life-threatening, but if it comes loose it can be carried in the blood to another part of the body where it can cause problems. If the clot is carried to the lungs, it is called a pulmonary embolism, which can be fatal.

Even if a blood clot does not come loose, it can still cause long-term damage to the veins leading to pain and swelling.

Edoxaban (Lixiana) is an anticoagulant medicine that helps to prevent blood from clotting. It does this by interfering with a substance in the body called thrombin, which is involved in the development of blood clots.

NHS Choices (www.nhs.uk) may be a good place to find out more.

Sources of advice and support

- Anticoagulation Europe (ACE), 0208 289 6875, www.anticoagulationeurope.org

- Thrombosis UK (formerly Lifeblood: The Thrombosis Charity), 0300 772 9603, www.thrombosis-charity.org.uk

NICE is not responsible for the quality or accuracy of any information or advice provided by these organisations.

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