

Edoxaban for preventing stroke and systemic embolism in people with non-valvular atrial fibrillation

Information for the public

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What has NICE said?

Edoxaban (Lixiana) is recommended as an option for preventing stroke and systemic embolism in people with non-valvular atrial fibrillation who have one or more risk factors, such as:

- heart failure, high blood pressure or diabetes
- had a stroke or transient ischaemic attack before
- aged 75 years or older.

What does this mean for me?

If you have non-valvular atrial fibrillation 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

Atrial fibrillation is a condition that affects the heart, making it beat irregularly and too fast. When this happens, the heart cannot efficiently pump blood around the body. Blood can also collect in one of the heart's chambers and clot. If this happens, the clot can move and block a blood vessel somewhere else in the body (called a systemic embolism). If this cuts off the blood supply to the brain it can cause a stroke or transient ischaemic attack (a mini stroke).

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

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Accreditation

