

avixan[®]

Apixaban
2.5 mg and 5 mg film-coated tablets

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine because it contains important information for you.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet.

What is in this leaflet?

1. What avixan[®] is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you take avixan[®]
3. How to take avixan[®]
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store avixan[®]
6. Contents of the pack and other information

1. What avixan[®] is and what it is used for
avixan[®] contains the active substance apixaban and belongs to a group of medicines called anticoagulants. This medicine helps to prevent blood clots from forming by blocking Factor Xa, which is an important component of blood clotting.

avixan[®] is used in adults:

- To prevent blood clots (deep vein thrombosis [DVT]) from forming after hip or knee replacement operations. After an operation to the hip or knee you may be at a higher risk of developing blood clots in your leg veins. This can cause the legs to swell, with or without pain. If a blood clot travels from your leg to your lungs, it can block blood flow causing breathlessness, with or without chest pain. This condition (pulmonary embolism) can be life-threatening and requires immediate medical attention.

- To prevent a blood clot from forming in the heart in patients with an irregular heart beat (atrial fibrillation) and at least one additional risk factor. Blood clots may break off and travel to the brain and lead to a stroke or to other organs and prevent normal blood flow to that organ (also known as a systemic embolism). A stroke can be life-threatening and requires immediate medical attention.

- To treat blood clots in the veins of your legs (deep vein thrombosis) and in the blood vessels of your lungs (pulmonary embolism), and to prevent blood clots from re-occurring in the blood vessels of your legs and/or lungs.

2. What you need to know before you take avixan[®] Do not take avixan[®] if:

- you are allergic to apixaban or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6)
- you are bleeding excessively
- you have a disease in an organ of the body that increases the risk of serious bleeding (such as an active or a recent ulcer of your stomach or bowel, recent bleeding in your brain)
- you have a liver disease which leads to increased risk of bleeding (hepatic coagulopathy)
- you are taking medicines to prevent blood clotting (e.g., warfarin, rivaroxaban, dabigatran or heparin), except when changing anticoagulant treatment, while having a venous or arterial line and you get heparin through this line to keep it open, or if a tube is inserted into your blood vessel (catheter ablation) to treat an irregular heartbeat (arrhythmia).

Warnings and precautions

Talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse before you take this medicine if you have any of the following:

- An increased risk of bleeding, such as:
 - bleeding disorders, including conditions resulting in reduced platelet activity
 - very high blood pressure, not controlled by medical treatment
 - you are older than 75 years
 - you weigh 60 kg or less
 - A severe kidney disease or if you are on dialysis
 - A liver problem or a history of liver problems
- avixan[®] will be used with caution in patients with signs of altered liver function.

- if you have a prosthetic heart valve
- if your doctor determines that your blood pressure is unstable or another treatment or surgical procedure to remove the blood clot from your lungs is planned.

Take special care with avixan[®]:

- If you know that you have a disease called antiphospholipid syndrome (a disorder of the immune system that causes an increased risk of blood clots), tell your doctor who will decide if the treatment may need to be changed.
- If you need to have surgery or a procedure which may cause bleeding, your doctor might ask you to temporarily stop taking this medicine for a short while. If you are not sure whether a procedure may cause bleeding ask your doctor.

Children and adolescents

avixan[®] is not recommended in children and adolescents under 18 years of age.

Other medicines and avixan[®]

Tell your doctor, pharmacist or nurse if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines. Some medicines may increase the effects of avixan[®] and some may decrease its effects. Your doctor will decide, if you should be treated with avixan[®] when taking these medicines and how closely you should be monitored. The following medicines may increase the effects of avixan[®] and increase the chance for unwanted bleeding:
- Some medicines for fungal infections (e.g., ketoconazole, etc.)
- Some antiviral medicines for HIV / AIDS (e.g., ritonavir)
- Other medicines that are used to reduce blood clotting (e.g., enoxaparin, etc.)

- Anti-inflammatory or pain medicines (e.g., acetylsalicylic acid or naproxen). Especially, if you are older than 75 years and are taking acetylsalicylic acid, you may have an increased chance of bleeding.
- Medicines for high blood pressure or heart problems (e.g., diltiazem)
- Antidepressant medicines called selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitors or serotonin norepinephrine re-uptake inhibitors

The following medicines may reduce the ability of avixan[®] to help prevent blood clots from forming:

- Medicines to prevent epilepsy or seizures (e.g., phenytoin, etc.)

- St John's Wort (a herbal supplement used for depression)
- Medicines to treat tuberculosis or other infections (e.g., rifampicin)

Pregnancy and breast-feeding

If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse for advice before taking this medicine.

The effects of avixan[®] on pregnancy and the unborn child are not known. You should not take avixan[®] if you are pregnant. Contact your doctor immediately if you become pregnant while taking avixan[®]. It is not known if avixan[®] passes into human breast milk. Ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse for advice before taking this medicine while breast-feeding. They will advise you to either stop breast-feeding or to stop/not start taking avixan[®].

Driving and using machines

avixan[®] has not been shown to impair your ability to drive or use machines.

avixan[®] contains lactose (a type of sugar) and sodium

If you have been told by your doctor that you have intolerance to some sugars, contact your doctor before taking this medicinal product. Patients with rare hereditary problems of galactose intolerance, the Lapp lactase deficiency or glucose-galactose malabsorption should not take this medicine.

This medicine contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per tablet, that is to say essentially "sodium-free".

3. How to take avixan[®]

Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor or pharmacist has told you. Check with your doctor, pharmacist or nurse if you are not sure.

Dose

Swallow the tablet with a drink of water. avixan[®] can be taken with or without food.

Try to take the tablets at the same time every day to have the best treatment effect.

If you have difficulty swallowing the tablet whole, talk to your doctor about other ways to take avixan[®]. The tablet may be crushed and mixed with water, or 5% dextrose in water, or apple juice or apple puree, immediately before

you take it.

Instructions for crushing:

- **Crush** the tablets with a pestle and mortar.
- Transfer all the powder carefully into a suitable container then mix the powder with a little e.g., 30 mL (2 tablespoons), water or one of the other liquids mentioned above to make a mixture.
- Swallow the mixture.
- Rinse the pestle and mortar you used for crushing the tablet and the container, with a little water or one of the other liquids (e.g., 30 mL), and swallow the rinse. If necessary, your doctor may also give you the crushed avixan[®] tablet mixed in 60 mL of water or 5% dextrose in water, through a nasogastric tube.

Take avixan[®] as recommended for the following:

To prevent blood clots from forming after hip or knee replacement operations.

The recommended dose is one tablet of avixan[®] 2.5 mg twice a day.

For example, one in the morning and one in the evening. You should take the first tablet 12 to 24 hours after your operation.

If you have had a major hip operation you will usually take the tablets for 32 to 38 days

If you have had a major knee operation you will usually take the tablets for 10 to 14 days

To prevent a blood clot from forming in the heart in patients with an irregular heart beat and at least one additional risk factor.

The recommended dose is one tablet of avixan[®] 5 mg twice a day.

The recommended dose is one tablet of avixan[®] 2.5 mg twice a day if:

- you have severely reduced kidney function
- two or more of the following apply to you:
 - your blood test results suggest poor kidney function (value of serum creatinine is 1.5 mg/dL (133 micromole/L) or greater)
 - you are 80 years old or older
 - your weight is 60 kg or lower.

The recommended dose is one tablet twice a day, for example, one in the morning and one in the evening. Your doctor will decide how long you must continue treatment for.



To treat blood clots in the veins of your legs and blood clots in the blood vessels of your lungs

The recommended dose is two tablets of avixan[®] 5 mg twice a day for the first 7 days, for example, two in the morning and two in the evening.

After 7 days the recommended dose is one tablet of avixan[®] 5 mg twice a day, for example, one in the morning and one in the evening.

For preventing blood clots from re-occurring following completion of 6 months of treatment

The recommended dose is one tablet of avixan[®] 2.5 mg twice a day for example, one in the morning and one in the evening.

Your doctor will decide how long you must continue treatment for.

Your doctor might change your anticoagulant treatment as follows:

- Changing from avixan[®] to anticoagulant medicines
Stop taking avixan[®]. Start treatment with the anticoagulant medicines (for example heparin) at the time you would have taken the next tablet.

- Changing from anticoagulant medicines to avixan[®]
Stop taking the anticoagulant medicines. Start treatment with avixan[®] at the time you would have had the next dose of anticoagulant medicine, then continue as normal.

- Changing from treatment with anticoagulant containing vitamin K antagonist (e.g., warfarin) to avixan[®].

Stop taking the medicine containing a vitamin K antagonist. Your doctor needs to do blood-measurements and instruct you when to start taking avixan[®].

- Changing from avixan[®] to anticoagulant treatment containing vitamin K antagonist (e.g., warfarin).

If your doctor tells you that you have to start taking the medicine containing a vitamin K antagonist, continue to take avixan[®] for at least 2 days after your first dose of the medicine containing a vitamin K antagonist. Your doctor needs to do blood-measurements and instruct you when to stop taking avixan[®].

Patients undergoing cardioversion

If your abnormal heartbeat needs to be restored to normal by a procedure called cardioversion, take avixan[®] at the times your doctor tells you, to prevent blood clots in blood vessels in your brain and other blood vessels in your body.





If you take more avixan® than you should
Tell your doctor immediately if you have taken more than the prescribed dose of avixan®. Take the medicine pack with you, even if there are no tablets left. If you take more avixan® than recommended, you may have an increased risk of bleeding. If bleeding occurs, surgery, blood transfusions, or other treatments that may reverse anti-factor Xa activity may be required.

If you forget to take avixan®
 - Take the dose as soon as you remember and:
 - take the next dose of avixan® at the usual time
 - Then continue as normal.

If you are not sure what to do or have missed more than one dose, ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.

If you stop taking avixan®
 Do not stop taking avixan® without talking to your doctor first, because the risk of developing a blood clot could be higher if you stop treatment too early. If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.

4. Possible side effects

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them. avixan® can be given for three different medical conditions. The known side effects and how frequently they occur for each of these medical conditions may differ and are listed separately below. For these conditions, the most common general side effect of avixan® is bleeding which may be potentially life threatening and require immediate medical attention. The following side effects are known if you take avixan® to prevent blood clots from forming after hip or knee replacement operations.

Common side effects (may affect up to 1 in 10 people)
 - Anaemia which may cause tiredness or paleness
 - Bleeding including bruising and swelling
 - Nausea (feeling sick)

Uncommon side effects (may affect up to 1 in 100 people)
 - Reduced number of platelets in your blood (which can affect clotting)
 - Bleeding:
 • occurring after your operation including bruising and swelling, blood or liquid leaking from the surgical

wound/incision (wound secretion) or injection site
 • in your stomach, bowel or bright/red blood in the stools
 • blood in the urine
 • from your nose
 • from the vagina
 - Low blood pressure which may make you feel faint or have a quickened heartbeat
 - Blood tests may show:
 • abnormal liver function
 • an increase in some liver enzymes
 • an increase in bilirubin, a breakdown product of red blood cells, which can cause yellowing of the skin and eyes.
 - Itching

Rare side effects (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people)
 - Allergic reactions (hypersensitivity) which may cause: swelling of the face, lips, mouth, tongue and/or throat and difficulty breathing. **Contact your doctor immediately** if you experience any of these symptoms.

- Bleeding:
 • into a muscle
 • in your eyes
 • from your gums and blood in your spit when coughing
 • from your rectum
 - Hair loss

Not known (frequency cannot be estimated from the available data)

- Bleeding:
 • in your brain or in your spinal column,
 • in your lungs or your throat
 • in your mouth
 • into your abdomen or space behind your abdominal cavity
 • from a haemorrhoid
 • tests showing blood in the stools or in the urine
 - Skin rash

The following side effects are known if you take avixan® to prevent a blood clot from forming in the heart in patients with an irregular heart beat and at least one additional risk factor.

Common side effects (may affect up to 1 in 10 people)
 - Bleeding including:
 • in your eyes

• in your stomach or bowel
 • from your rectum
 • blood in the urine
 • from your nose
 • from your gums
 • bruising and swelling
 - Anaemia which may cause tiredness or paleness
 - Low blood pressure which may make you feel faint or have a quickened heartbeat
 - Nausea (feeling sick)
 - Blood tests may show:
 • an increase in gamma-glutamyltransferase (GGT)

Uncommon side effects (may affect up to 1 in 100 people)

- Bleeding:
 • in your brain or in your spinal column
 • in your mouth or blood in your spit when coughing
 • into your abdomen, or from the vagina
 • bright/red blood in the stools
 • bleeding occurring after your operation including bruising and swelling, blood or liquid leaking from the surgical wound/incision (wound secretion) or injection site
 • from a haemorrhoid
 • tests showing blood in the stools or in the urine
 - Reduced number of platelets in your blood (which can affect clotting)
 - Blood tests may show:
 • abnormal liver function
 • an increase in some liver enzymes
 • an increase in bilirubin, a breakdown product of red blood cells, which can cause yellowing of the skin and eyes
 - Skin rash
 - Itching
 - Hair loss
 - Allergic reactions (hypersensitivity) which may cause: swelling of the face, lips, mouth, tongue and/or throat and difficulty breathing. **Contact your doctor immediately** if you experience any of these symptoms.

Rare side effects (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people)

- Bleeding:
 • in your lungs or your throat
 • into the space behind your abdominal cavity
 • into a muscle

The following side effects are known if you take avixan® to treat or prevent re-occurrence of blood clots in the veins of your legs and blood clots in the blood vessels of your lungs.

Common side effects (may affect up to 1 in 10 people)

- Bleeding including:
 • from your nose
 • from your gums
 • blood in the urine
 • bruising and swelling
 • in your stomach, your bowel, from your rectum
 • in your mouth
 • from the vagina
 - Anaemia which may cause tiredness or paleness
 - Reduced number of platelets in your blood (which can affect clotting)
 - Nausea (feeling sick)
 - Skin rash
 - Blood tests may show:
 • an increase in gamma-glutamyltransferase (GGT) or alanine aminotransferase (ALT)

Uncommon side effects (may affect up to 1 in 100 people)

- Low blood pressure which may make you feel faint or have a quickened heartbeat
 - Bleeding:
 • in your eyes
 • in your mouth or blood in your spit when coughing
 • bright/red blood in the stools
 • tests showing blood in the stools or in the urine
 • bleeding occurring after your operation including bruising and swelling, blood or liquid leaking from the surgical wound/incision (wound secretion) or injection site
 • from a haemorrhoid
 • into a muscle
 - Itching
 - Hair loss
 - Allergic reactions (hypersensitivity) which may cause: swelling of the face, lips, mouth, tongue and/or throat and difficulty breathing. **Contact your doctor immediately** if you experience any of these symptoms.
 - Blood tests may show:
 • abnormal liver function
 • an increase in some liver enzymes
 • an increase in bilirubin, a breakdown product of red

blood cells, which can cause yellowing of the skin and eyes.

Rare side effects (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people)

Bleeding:
 • in your brain or in your spinal column
 • in your lungs

Not known (frequency cannot be estimated from the available data)

Bleeding:
 • into your abdomen or the space behind your abdominal cavity.

5. How to store avixan®
Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the carton and on the blister after EXP. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Store in the original package.

Do not store above 30°C.

Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

6. Contents of the pack and other information

What avixan® contains
 • The active substance is apixaban. Each tablet of avixan® 2.5 mg contains 2.5 mg of apixaban. Each tablet of avixan® 5 mg contains 5 mg of apixaban.
 • The other ingredients are:
 - Tablet core: lactose monohydrate, microcrystalline cellulose, croscarmellose sodium, sodium lauryl sulfate, magnesium stearate, povidone.
 - Film coat:
 avixan® 2.5 mg: hypromellose, titanium dioxide, triacetin, yellow iron oxide.
 avixan® 5 mg: hypromellose, titanium dioxide, triacetin, red iron oxide.

What avixan® looks like and contents of the pack
 avixan® 2.5 mg: The film coated tablets are yellow, round, biconvex, debossed "F51" on one side and plain on other side.

avixan® 5 mg: The film coated tablets are pink, capsule shaped, debossed "F52" on one side and plain on other side.

For more information about this medicinal product, please contact:
 Algorithm SAL
 Tel: +961-9-222050

To report adverse events, please contact:
 Algorithm SAL
 Email: pharmacovigilance@algorithm-lb.com
 Phone: +961-9-222050 ext. 347
 Fax: +961-9-222604
 Website: www.algorithm-lb.com
 Also contact the relevant competent authority.

This is a medicament

- A medicament is a product which affects your health and its consumption contrary to instructions is dangerous for you.
 - Follow strictly the doctor's prescription, the method of use and the instructions of the pharmacist who sold you the medicament.
 - The doctor and the pharmacist are experts in medicines, its benefits and risks.
 - Do not by yourself interrupt the period of treatment prescribed.
 - Do not repeat the same prescription without consulting your doctor.
 - Keep all medicaments out of reach of children.

Council of Arab Health Ministers
 Union of Arab Pharmacists

Marketing Authorization Holder and Final Batch Releaser:
ALGORITHM S.A.L. Zouk Mosbeh, Lebanon
 Manufacturer:
 Macleods Pharmaceuticals Limited, India

