

Medicine: rivaroxaban (brand name: Xarelto®) for the prevention of atherothrombotic events

Bayer Plc

What is rivaroxaban used for?

Rivaroxaban is used to help prevent atherothrombotic events. Over time, fatty deposits (called plaques) can build up in the arteries. Atherothrombotic events happen when a plaque detaches from the artery wall leading to a blockage in the artery causing a heart attack or stroke.

Rivaroxaban is used to treat patients with coronary artery disease (CAD), or with peripheral artery disease (PAD). CAD and PAD are both circulatory conditions where the blood flow is reduced because of narrowed or blocked arteries. CAD affects the arteries that supply the blood to the heart and PAD affects arteries that supply blood to the limbs (usually the legs).

Rivaroxaban was considered for use together with aspirin (acetylsalicylic acid), for patients with circulatory disease affecting the arteries who are at high risk of ischaemic events (such as heart attack or stroke).

How does rivaroxaban work?

Rivaroxaban is a blood-thinning medicine called an anticoagulant which makes blood flow more easily through arteries. It works by blocking an important component of blood clotting (called Factor Xa), and preventing the blood from forming dangerous clots.

What has SMC said?

SMC accepted rivaroxaban for restricted use for the prevention of atherothrombotic events in adults at high risk of ischaemic events, as described above. This is limited to use in patients with stable CAD who do not require dual anti-platelet therapy (treatment with a combination of aspirin and another blood-thinning medicine (usually clopidogrel)).



Why has SMC said this?

SMC looks at how well new medicines work compared with current treatments available in Scotland and in relation to how much they will cost to buy and administer (for example, if the medicine has to be given at a clinic or side effects have to be monitored).

SMC carefully considers every new medicine to make sure it benefits patients and is considered to be an acceptable use of the limited resources in NHSScotland. When SMC assesses a medicine it takes account of the needs of all patients in NHSScotland, not just those who may be treated with the medicine under consideration.

To do this SMC consider the following:

- Clinical trial and economic evidence from the company that makes the medicine.
- Advice from healthcare professionals about any benefits of the new medicine compared to current treatment, along with how the new medicine is likely to be used.
- Information from patient groups about the potential impact of the medicine on patients and carers.

After careful consideration of the evidence SMC was able to accept rivaroxaban as a possible treatment within NHSScotland.

What does SMC's decision mean for me?

If your healthcare professional thinks that rivaroxaban for use as described above is the right medicine for you, you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS in Scotland. For further information see:

Medicines in Scotland: What's the right treatment for me?

www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org/medicinesbooklet.aspx



More information

The organisations below can provide more information and support for people with heart conditions and their families. SMC is not responsible for the content of any information provided by external organisations.

Anticoagulation UK

 <http://www.anticoagulationuk.org/>

Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland

 <https://www.chss.org.uk/>

 0808 801 0899

Diabetes Scotland

 http://www.diabetes.org.uk/in_your_area/scotland

 0141 212 8710

Thrombosis UK



<http://www.thrombosisuk.org>



0300 772 9603

You can find out more about rivaroxaban in the European public assessment report (EPAR) summary for the public by searching for the medicine name on the European Medicines Agency (EMA) website.



<http://www.ema.europa.eu>

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