

Edoxaban (Savaysa): *What you need to know and do*

What is edoxaban?

Edoxaban (Savaysa) is an **anticoagulant** [an-tee-coh-AG-yoo-lehnt]. Anticoagulants are sometimes called “blood thinners.” They don’t really thin the blood. Instead, they:

- Stop the action of a certain protein your body needs to make blood clots
- Stop new clots from forming
- Keep blood clots from getting bigger, so your body can dissolve them over time

Edoxaban cannot break up clots you already have.

Why do I need it?

Edoxaban is typically used for:

- **Atrial fibrillation (afib) treatment.** Afib [AY-fibb] is an abnormal heart rhythm that can cause blood clots to form in the heart. If a blood clot moves from the heart to your brain, it can cause a stroke.
- **Deep vein thrombosis (DVT) and pulmonary embolism (PE) treatment.** DVT is a blood clot that forms in the leg. It can break loose and travel through the bloodstream to the lungs where it can block an artery. A blocked lung artery is called a PE. Edoxaban can help prevent clots from forming or growing and stop pieces of the clot from breaking loose while the body is healing.

When and how should I take it?

- Take edoxaban once daily, with or without food.
- Take edoxaban around the same time each day.
- Do not stop taking edoxaban, unless your healthcare provider says it’s okay.

What should I do if I forget a dose?

If you miss a dose of edoxaban, but remember within 12 hours of when you normally take it, you can still take the dose. However, if it is longer than 12 hours from when you normally take edoxaban, wait until your next regularly scheduled dose. **Do not take extra medicine to make up for a missed dose.**

Does edoxaban interact with other medicines?

Edoxaban interacts with some medicines. These interactions can cause either an increased chance of bleeding or forming a blood clot. Always talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist before starting any new medicine or supplement. Medicines that interact with edoxaban include:

- Aspirin
- Anticoagulants (warfarin, Coumadin, Pradaxa, Xarelto, Eliquis)
- Carbamazepine (Tegretol)
- Clopidogrel (Plavix)
- NSAIDs (ibuprofen, naproxen, diclofenac, meloxicam, Motrin, Advil, Aleve, etc.)
- Phenytoin (Dilantin)
- Prasugrel (Effient)
- Rifampin
- St. John’s wort
- Venlafaxine (Effexor)

Does edoxaban have risks?

As with any medicine, edoxaban has some risks:

- **It can increase your risk of bleeding.** See “*When should I get medical help*” for more information.
- **It can cause a rash.** If you develop a rash while taking edoxaban, tell your healthcare provider right away.



When should I get medical help?

Call your doctor or anticoagulation clinic if:

- You start, stop, or change the dose of any of the medicines listed on [the previous page](#)
- You are told your kidneys or liver are not working well
- You fall and hurt yourself, especially if you hit your head
- You see any of these **signs of increased bleeding**:
 - Bruising more than normal
 - Abnormal bleeding from your mouth, nose, or gums
 - Pink, red, or dark brown urine
 - Minor bleeding or bright red blood in your stool
 - Increased menstrual bleeding

Call 911 or go to the emergency room if you have any of these symptoms:

- Bowel movements that are bloody, dark red, black, or tarry (sticky)
- Vomit that contains bright red blood, is black, or is dark brown like coffee grounds
- A bloody nose that does not stop after applying pressure to the nose for 20 minutes
- Sudden dizziness, faintness, or weakness
- Sudden pain in a joint
- A sudden, very bad headache and stiff neck
- Cloudy vision that comes on quickly
- Trouble talking or moving one side of your body, including one side of the face
- Sudden chest pain

How does edoxaban compare to warfarin (Coumadin)?

Studies show that edoxaban works as well as warfarin in lowering the risk of stroke from atrial fibrillation and treating blood clots. Edoxaban may also have a lower bleeding risk than warfarin.

- **Advantages.** Edoxaban has fewer medicine interactions than warfarin, it doesn't interact with food, and it doesn't require frequent blood tests.
- **Disadvantages.** Edoxaban is only sold by the brand name Savaysa. It can be more expensive because there is no generic option available. Also, there is no antidote to reverse its effect in case of serious bleeding.

Is it safe during pregnancy or while breastfeeding? Edoxaban has not been studied in pregnancy, so there may be risks to your baby. If you're pregnant or plan to be, talk to your doctor before starting edoxaban.

How do I store edoxaban? Store it in a cool, dry place, out of the reach of children.

Who should NOT take edoxaban?

Anyone who is allergic to edoxaban, or has bleeding problems, heart valve disease, poor liver function, or poor kidney function should not take edoxaban. If you have any of these conditions and you are taking edoxaban, tell your healthcare provider right away.

How can I help prevent bleeding?

To help reduce your risk of heavy bleeding:

- **Check with your doctor before doing any activity where you risk serious injury, bruising, or bleeding.** Examples include contact sports, extreme sports, or work that puts you on a ladder or around sharp tools.
- **Tell your doctor or dentist that you are taking edoxaban at least 1 week (7 days) before having any dental or surgical procedure.**

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