

- **What should I do if I take too many tablets?**

If you have taken more tablets than your prescription states, you are at a higher risk of bleeding. Contact your doctor immediately. Take your medication with you to show the doctor.

- **How do I store my tablets?**

Do not take your tablets if the expiry date has passed (you can find this information on the tablet box). Keep the tablets in a dry place below 25°C. Keep all medicines well out of the reach of children – it is best to lock them in a cupboard or medicine cabinet. Edoxaban may be re-dispensed in a compliance aid or blister pack.

- **Will edoxaban interact with other medicines, food or alcohol?**

There are no known interactions with specific foods or alcohol. However, excessive alcohol consumption can increase your risk of bleeding, so it is advisable not to drink more than 14 units each week. There are some medicines that edoxaban does interact with so please let anybody prescribing you medicines know the names of all medications you are taking (including prescription, over-the-counter medicines, vitamins and herbal supplements).

- **Should I stop taking edoxaban if I am going to have a dental or medical procedure?**

Do not stop taking edoxaban without first talking to your doctor or dentist. Edoxaban may need to be stopped for one or more days before any planned surgery, dental or medical procedure.

You will receive an edoxaban alert card (contained within the tablet box). Please carry this with you at all times.

PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET

EDOxabAN FOR THE TREATMENT OF ATRIAL FIBRILLATION

People with atrial fibrillation have a five times higher risk of having a stroke. If you have atrial fibrillation, your doctor should assess your individual risk of a stroke and discuss whether you should be started on medication to reduce this risk.

- **What is edoxaban for?**

Edoxaban (Lixiana®) is an anticoagulant, sometimes referred to as a 'blood thinner', used to lower the risk of blood clots developing in people who have atrial fibrillation (an irregular heart beat) and other risk factors for stroke. Having atrial fibrillation increases the risk of a blood clot forming in the heart. If this clot travels to the brain, it may cause a stroke. Taking edoxaban slows down the time it takes for your blood to clot and reduces the risk of this happening.

- **For people with atrial fibrillation, is it worth changing to edoxaban from warfarin?**

Warfarin has been prescribed for more than 60 years so there is plenty of experience of its clinical use. There is evidence that edoxaban is as effective as warfarin at preventing a stroke, with a smaller chance of major bleeding. If warfarin is not well controlled your GP or healthcare specialist may recommend changing from warfarin to reduce the risk of a stroke or bleeding.

- **Does edoxaban cause less bleeding than warfarin?**

As both edoxaban and warfarin affect blood clotting, people may still experience side effects such as bruising and bleeding.

Evidence has shown that edoxaban has a lower risk of intracranial bleeding (bleeding into the brain) than warfarin, but a higher risk of

gastrointestinal (stomach and bowel) bleeding. Intracranial bleeding (bleeding into the brain) is worrying because it is usually very serious. Gastrointestinal (stomach and bowel) bleeding is more common but varies widely in its severity. Please seek medical advice if you have any blood in your faeces or vomit.

- **In the event of excessive bleeding, can the effect of edoxaban be reversed?**

There is a drug called Andexanet alfa that can be used to reverse the effect of some anticoagulants (blood thinners). This has not yet been approved nationally to reverse the effects of edoxaban (its use is described as off-license with edoxaban). However, it has been agreed in Cheshire and Merseyside that it can be used if urgent treatment is required for bleeding from the stomach or bowel.

- **Are regular blood tests needed to monitor edoxaban?**

There is no need for regular blood tests with edoxaban. However, a blood test is needed to measure how well the kidneys and liver are working before starting treatment and then at least once a year whilst on treatment.

- **When and how do I take this medicine?**

Always take this medicine as your doctor has told you. If you do not take edoxaban regularly it will not be effective and your risk of having a stroke will increase.

The dose is usually 60mg once a day. A reduced dose (30mg once a day) may be prescribed in some circumstances such as low body weight, poor kidney function, prescription of other medications.

Edoxaban can be taken with or without a meal, but preferably with water.

- **What are the possible side effects of this medicine?**

As this medicine slows down the time it takes for your blood to clot, most side effects are bruising or bleeding. Tell your doctor immediately if you experience any of the following: long or

excessive bleeding, exceptional weakness, tiredness, paleness, dizziness, headache or unexplained swelling. Also report if there is any blood in your urine, or if you pass black tarry or blood-stained stools.

You should seek urgent medical attention if you fall or injure yourself whilst taking edoxaban, especially if you hit your head due to the increased risk of bleeding.

- **What should I do if I forget to take a dose?**

It is important not to skip doses. If a dose is missed, you should take edoxaban immediately and continue on once daily dosing the following day. The dose should not be doubled within the same day to make up for a missed dose.