

Choice of Direct Oral Anticoagulant (DOAC) for the treatment of venous thromboembolism

Position Statement

Where a DOAC is clinically indicated for the treatment of venous thromboembolism (VTE), rivaroxaban is preferred because it:

- does not require prior use of a parenteral anticoagulant in the acute setting
- is a once daily dose
- has a low acquisition cost (patent expiry in 2023)

Consider twice-daily apixaban:

- for individuals at high-risk of mucosal bleed
- where compliance to taking rivaroxaban with meals cannot be assured *and* compliance to twice-daily apixaban can be assured.

Both rivaroxaban and apixaban are licensed for secondary VTE thromboprophylaxis after at least 6 months of treatment, at a reduced dose.

In line with NICE TAs all anticoagulant options will be available if clinically appropriate.

References

- 1) NICE NG158: Venous thromboembolic diseases: diagnosis, management and thrombophilia testing (March 2020) www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng158
- 2) NICE TA261: Rivaroxaban for the treatment of deep vein thrombosis and prevention of recurrent deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism (July 2012) www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta261
- 3) NICE TA287: Rivaroxaban for treating pulmonary embolism and preventing recurrent venous thromboembolism (June 2013) www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta287
- 4) NICE TA341: Apixaban for the treatment and secondary prevention of deep vein thrombosis and/or pulmonary embolism (June 2015) www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta341
- 5) NICE TA354: Edoxaban for treating and preventing deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism (August 2015); www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta354
- 6) NICE TA327: Dabigatran etexilate for the treatment and secondary prevention of deep vein thrombosis and/or pulmonary embolism (December 2014) www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta327
- 7) British National Formulary: Rivaroxaban (accessed March 2020) bnf.nice.org.uk/drug/rivaroxaban.html
- 8) Summary of Product characteristics for rivaroxaban 20mg tablets (October 2019) www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/2793/smpc

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