
Department of Cardiology/Pharmacy

Warfarin

Action

Warfarin is used to help stop harmful blood clots from forming. People who have already had a problem caused by a blood clot or people who are at risk of getting blood clots might take warfarin. Harmful blood clots can cause health problems like a stroke, a heart attack, an embolism in your lungs which makes you feel very short of breath or a deep vein thrombosis which can cause problems like a painful swelling in your leg.

Taking your warfarin

- Warfarin tablets come in three different strengths. These are:
 - 1mg brown tablets
 - 3mg blue tablets
 - 5mg pink tablets

You should take your warfarin in the evening at about 1800 hours. You will have a yellow anticoagulation booklet to tell you what dose to take. Always follow the most recent dosage instructions very carefully. You must have blood tests regularly to help your doctor decide the right dose of warfarin for you. Always keep your appointment for your blood tests.

Problems to watch for

- Warfarin can cause bleeding if you take too much of it. You must tell your doctor straight away if you notice any signs of bleeding such as:
 - Bleeding from the gums, bruising, nose bleeds or blood in your water or motions.
- Warfarin can cause problems if you take it with certain other medicines. Your doctor and pharmacist will check to make sure warfarin goes with any other medicines you have been prescribed. You **must** tell any doctor or dentist who treats you that you take warfarin. You **must** tell the pharmacist that you take warfarin if you buy any medicines from the chemist.

You must not drink cranberry juice if you are on warfarin as it may increase the effect of the warfarin and increase side-effects such as bleeding.

- Warfarin can cause side effects but this is unusual. Tell your doctor if you have problems with:
 - Feeling sick or being sick.
 - Indigestion or diarrhoea.
 - A strange taste in your mouth.

Note: Always read the patient information leaflet provided by the manufacturer and the information in your yellow anticoagulant book.



We are currently working towards a smoke-free site. Smoking is only permitted in the designated smoking areas.

For advice and support in quitting, contact your GP or the free NHS Stop Smoking helpline on 0800 169 0 169

Help with this leaflet:



If you would like this information in another language, large print or audio format, please ask the department to contact Patient Information: 01223 216032 or patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk



Document history

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