

# FONDAPARINUX (also called ARIXTRA®)

## What is Fondaparinux (Arixtra®)?

- Medicine used to lower risk of blood clots and stroke.
- Decreases your body's ability to make a clot.

## What should I watch for when taking Fondaparinux (Arixtra®)?

Major things to watch for when taking Fondaparinux are bleeding, clotting and allergy signs.

- Bleeding signs to watch for:
  - Bruises that happen for no reason or get bigger
  - Gum bleeding
  - Nose bleeds
  - Heavier than normal menstrual or vaginal bleeding
- Clotting signs to watch for:
  - Redness, swelling, tenderness, or warmth in any limbs (not related to injection site)
  - Increased pain in the area where you already have a clot
- Allergy signs to watch for:
  - Hives
  - Rash
  - Itching

**You/your child should go to the emergency room for any of the following signs:**

- Bleeding:
  - Bleeding you cannot stop or is severe
  - Pink or brown-colored urine
  - Red or black, tarry stools
  - Coughing up blood or blood clots
  - Vomiting blood or if your vomit looks like "coffee grounds"
  - Internal head bleeding most often from trauma or injury: severe, uncontrolled headache; nausea or vomiting; difficulty walking or talking; extreme tiredness; difficulty with waking up; high-pitched crying in a child on this medicine
- Clotting:
  - Signs of a deep vein clot:
    - Redness, swelling, tenderness, or warmth in any limbs (not related to injection site)
    - Increased pain in the area where you already have a clot
  - Signs of a blood clot in the lungs (pulmonary embolus):
    - Severe, sudden shortness of breath
    - Chest pain
    - Coughing up blood or blood clots

- Signs of a stroke:
  - Dizziness, sudden loss of vision, or sudden severe headache
  - Numbness or weakness in any limb
  - Difficulty speaking or slurred speech
  - Drooping of one side of your face
- Severe allergic reaction:
  - Chest pain or tightness
  - Swelling of your face or tongue
  - Trouble breathing or wheezing
  - Feeling dizzy or faint

### **What else should I know about Fondaparinux (Arixtra®)?**

- Injected under the skin once a day as directed by the doctor.
- May require a blood draw for monitoring: Arixtra level. The level must be drawn at a specific time after the injection is given (usually 3 hours afterward). Your doctor will tell you when to have the level drawn.
- Store at room temperature in a dry place (avoid storing in the bathroom).
- Let your doctor know if you have any problems with your kidneys, previous stomach bleeding or ulcers.
- Tell your doctor all the medicines you/your child take (this includes over-the-counter medicines and herbal supplements) and any new ones that are prescribed.
- Do not take any ASA or NSAIDs unless you speak with your doctor first.
- Tell your doctor if you/your child need any surgeries or procedures, including major dental work.
- Sports participation must be discussed with the doctor as some may increase the risk of bleeding while taking Fondaparinux.
- Fondaparinux may be given during pregnancy but only when indicated and as directed by the doctor. It is not recommended during breastfeeding.
- If you miss a dose, take it right away on the same day.
- If you suspect an overdose, go to the emergency room right away.

Fondaparinux dose you/your child will be taking at home: \_\_\_\_\_

Date standing Fondaparinux (Arixtra) order given to patient/family: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of next Fondaparinux (Arixtra) level check: \_\_\_\_\_

You/your child's reason for needing Fondaparinux: \_\_\_\_\_

Date to be seen in clinic for follow-up: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number to call with any questions or concerns: \_\_\_\_\_