FAIRVIEW PHARMACY — EST. 1978

Taking Xarelto safely

rivaroxaban · blood thinner

3 MISTAKES TO AVOID

1. **Skipping food with the bigger doses**
   The 15 mg and 20 mg tablets must be taken with food.
2. **Stopping on your own, or running out**
   Stopping raises your risk of a blood clot or a stroke.
3. **A new medicine without checking**
   Some medicines raise bleeding risk; others make Xarelto work less well.

How to take it (mistake #1)

- **15 mg and 20 mg tablets: always with food.** Once a day for atrial fibrillation: with your evening meal.
- **Smaller tablets:** with or without food. Not sure which you take? Ask your pharmacist.
- **Refill before your supply is gone.** Before surgery or dental work, the doctor who prescribed Xarelto will tell you when to stop it and when to start again.

Missed a dose?

- **One dose a day:** take it as soon as you remember that same day.
- **15 mg twice a day:** you may take 2 tablets at once to get your full amount for the day.
- **Small twice-a-day dose:** just take your next dose at the usual time.

Check before you take it (mistake #3)

- **Raise bleeding risk:** aspirin, clopidogrel, warfarin, heparin, regular ibuprofen or naproxen, some depression medicines, ketoconazole, ritonavir.
- **Make Xarelto work less well:** rifampin, carbamazepine, phenytoin, St. John's wort. Low-dose aspirin prescribed with it: take it exactly as directed.

EMERGENCY: CALL 911
Bleeding that is severe, or that you cannot stop.

Call your doctor or get medical help right away for

- Bleeding that lasts a long time
- Red, pink or brown urine; bright red or black stools
- Coughing up or vomiting blood; headaches, dizziness or weakness
- Pain in your upper left belly or at the tip of your left shoulder

IMPORTANT
Epidural or spinal tap? Tell the team you take Xarelto. Afterward, back pain, tingling, numbness or leg weakness needs help right away.

Not for people with artificial heart valves. **Pregnant, planning to be, or breastfeeding?** Talk with your doctor.

Questions? Ask Dr. Mike at fairviewpharm.com/medications

Leave a message: 601-640-4671 · 500 Katie Ave, Hattiesburg, MS

Medically reviewed by Dr. Mike Acheampong, Pharmacist, Fairview Pharmacy · October 2026

This handout is for education only and is not medical advice. Talk with your doctor or pharmacist about your medicines.
Source: FDA prescribing information and Medication Guide for XARELTO (DailyMed 9/2026). XARELTO is a trademark of its owner.

Scan for the full guide