

Dabigatran etexilate for the treatment and secondary prevention of deep vein thrombosis and/or pulmonary embolism

Information for the public

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What has NICE said?

Dabigatran etexilate (also known as Pradaxa) is recommended as a possible treatment for adults with deep vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolism.

What does this mean for me?

If you have deep vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolism and your doctor thinks that dabigatran etexilate is the right treatment, you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS.

Dabigatran etexilate should be available on the NHS within 3 months of the guidance being issued.

Why has NICE said this?

NICE looks at how well treatments work in relation to how much they cost compared with other treatments available on the NHS.

Dabigatran etexilate was recommended because it works better and costs about the same as other treatments available on the NHS.

The conditions and the treatment

When a blood clot forms in one of the deep veins in the leg, thigh, pelvis or arm it is called a deep vein thrombosis. The clot itself is not life-threatening, but if it comes loose it can be carried in the blood to another part of the body where it can cause problems. If the clot is carried to the lungs, it is called a pulmonary embolism, which can be fatal.

Even if a blood clot does not come loose, it can still cause long-term damage to the veins leading to pain and swelling.

Dabigatran etexilate (also known as Pradaxa) is an anticoagulant medicine that helps to prevent blood from clotting. It does this by interfering with a substance in the body called thrombin, which is involved in the development of blood clots.

NHS Choices (www.nhs.uk) may be a good place to find out more.

Sources of advice and support

- Anticoagulation Europe, 020 8289 6875, www.anticoagulationeurope.org
- Lifeblood: The Thrombosis Charity, 020 7633 9937, www.thrombosis-charity.org.uk

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Accreditation

