

Pharmacotherapeutic report on apixaban (Eliquis®) for the prevention of stroke and systemic embolism in patients with non-valvular atrial fibrillation (NVAF) with one or more risk-factors

Recommendation by CVZ dated 25 February 2013, based on Evaluation by the WAR (Scientific Advisory Committee)

Medicine. Apixaban (Eliquis®) tablet 5 mg

Summary of the therapeutic value

Intended effects. Apixaban reduces the risk of stroke/systemic embolism and mortality compared to warfarin. Based on an indirect comparison, the intended effects of apixaban are comparable to those of dabigatran.

Unintended effects. In general, the side-effects of apixaban and dabigatran are more favourable than those of warfarin in phase III studies. Furthermore, the adverse reactions of apixaban are comparable with those of dabigatran.

Experience. There is limited experience with apixaban and limited experience with dabigatran with regards to the treatment of patients with non-valvular atrial fibrillation.

Applicability. There are no major differences in applicability between apixaban and dabigatran.

Ease of use. There are no major differences in ease of use between apixaban and dabigatran. Vitamin K-antagonists doses are adjusted according to the INR values. These INR checks may increase therapy compliance.

Final conclusion on therapeutic value.

For the prevention of stroke and systemic embolism in adult patients with non-valvular atrial fibrillation with one of more risk factors, the therapeutic value of apixaban is comparable with that of dabigatran.

*The original text of this **WAR-Report** of CVZ was in Dutch. Although great care was taken in translating the text from Dutch to English, the translation may nevertheless have resulted in discrepancies. Rights may only be derived on the basis of the Dutch version of CVZ's WAR-Report.*

Furthermore, CVZ points out that only the summary of this report was translated. A proper understanding of all relevant considerations and facts would require familiarity with the Dutch version of this report, including all appendices.