Apixaban (Eliquis) is a novel anticoagulant in the prevention of blood clot formation. Specifically, it is a selective inhibitor of factor Xa in the coagulation cascade, which is necessary for the conversion of prothrombin to thrombin. Apixaban is an organic, heterocyclic compound with a phenylpiperidine skeleton. The Lipinski’s Rule of Five predicts apixaban is more membrane permeable and therefore more easily absorbed by the body within three to four hours of oral administration. Apixaban has a low volume of distribution suggesting it stays in the main blood compartment, where factor Xa is found. It is metabolized mainly by the CYP3A4 enzyme and eliminated via hepatic metabolism, renal excretion, and gastrointestinal bile secretion. If used concomitantly with a CYP3A4 inhibitor, antiplatelet, or anticoagulant drug, excessive bleeding may occur, in which there are no reversal agents for. However, apixaban still remains a great secondary option for anticoagulant therapy as it does not require intense monitoring and has great oral bioavailability.

References


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