

[Drug Injury Watch: Eliquis Might Be Safer Than Xarelto, But Neither Has Approved Antidote](#)

(Posted by Tom Lamb at www.DrugInjuryWatch.com on November 10, 2015)

In a November 9, 2015 news report, “Antithrombotics Have Varied Risk of Causing Major Bleeds”, there is a summary of one presentation the American Heart Association 2015 Scientific Sessions:

Clot-busting drugs work, but they sometimes cause dangerous major bleeding. Reporting at the American Heart Association 2015 Scientific Sessions in Orlando, FL, a team of drug company researchers offered results of a retrospective cohort study showing that apixaban (Eliquis/Bristol-Myers-Squibb/Pfizer) had a lower risk of bleeding....

Compared to warfarin patients, those on [Eliquis (apixaban)] had about half the risk (HR=0.53) of a major bleed. The research is presented in [“Abstract 18465: Real World Comparison of Major Bleeding Risk Among Non-valvular Atrial Fibrillation Patients Newly Initiated on Warfarin versus Apixaban 5mg BID, Dabigatran 150 mg BID, or Rivaroxaban 20 mg QD.”]

It seems from the summary report of this presentation that the pharmaceutical companies responsible for Eliquis were seeking to distinguish their blood thinner medicine from Pradaxa, Xarelto, and Savaysa. All of these medicines are in the non-vitamin K antagonist oral anticoagulants (NOACs) class of drugs.

But when it comes to there being a specific reversal agent to stop an acute bleed once it start, Eliquis, Xarelto, and Savaysa share the dubious distinction of not currently having one that is FDA-approved for use. For more about this unfortunate and unsafe situation, see this recent article, “Still No Approved Reversal Agents Or Antidotes For Eliquis, Savaysa, And Xarelto To Stop Acute Bleeding”, which has this sub-headline: None Available To Help Patients Who Undergo Emergency Surgery Or When There Is Life-Threatening Uncontrolled Bleeding.

Only Pradaxa has a so-called antidote at the present time. In more detail, On October 16, 2015 the FDA granted accelerated approval to Praxbind (idarucizumab) for use in patients who are taking the anticoagulant Pradaxa (dabigatran) during emergency situations when there is a need to reverse Pradaxa’s blood-thinning effects.

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Earlier articles by attorney Tom Lamb on the [Side Effects Blog](#):

- [Xarelto / Savaysa / Pradaxa / Eliquis: Effect Of Platelet Inhibitors](#)
- [No Antidotes For Eliquis, Savaysa, And Xarelto To Stop Acute Bleeding](#)
- [Eliquis Antidote Will Come Too Late For People Who Suffered Serious Bleeding Events, Some Which Caused The Deaths Of Patients](#)
- [Because No Antidote For Eliquis Is Available To Reverse The Effects Of Anticoagulation, There Have Been Irreversible Life-Threatening And Fatal Bleeding Events](#)
- [Eliquis And Xarelto, Like Pradaxa, Linked To Serious Bleeding Events Due To Fact No Antidote Available](#)

Attorney [Tom Lamb](#) represents people in personal injury and wrongful death cases involving unsafe prescription drugs or medication errors. The above article was posted originally on his blog, **Drug Injury Watch** – with live links and readers' Comments.

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