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Blood Thinners and Surgery

Many medications, both prescription and over the counter, may increase the risk of bleeding both during and after surgery and invasive procedures. These include prescriptions given to patients with cardiac stents, heart valves or a history of stroke, as well as many medications used for pain, such as ibuprofen. When preparing for surgery, you may need to stop these medications several days or a week ahead of time.

If you haven't stopped the medications, your surgery might need to be rescheduled.

The medications listed have blood thinning effects. This list is not exhaustive, and medications not on the list may also put you at risk for bleeding. When in doubt, ask your primary doctor, surgeon, or a pharmacist. If you are on prescription blood thinners such as Coumadin, Xarelto, Eliquis, Pradaxa or Plavix, the doctor who prescribes these medications should know and agree that you will stop the medication before the surgery. Acetaminophen (Tylenol) is NOT a blood thinner, and does not need to be stopped prior to surgery. Do not stop your other

Common Blood Thinners

Prescription

Warfarin (Coumadin), Dabigatran (Pradaxa), Rivaroxaban (Xarelto), Apixaban (Eliquis), Clopidogrel (Plavix), Prasugrel (Effient), Ticagrelor (Brilinta, Brilique, and Possia), Aspirin-Dipyridamole (Aggrenox)

Injectables

Heparin, Enoxaparin (Lovenox)

Over the Counter

Aspirin (Acetylsalicylic acid) and any products containing it, such as: Excedrin, Ecotrin, Goody's Headache Powder

NSAIDs (both prescription and OTC)

Ibuprofen (Motrin, Advil), Diclofenac (Voltaren, Flector Patch), Celecoxib (Celebrex), Meloxicam (Mobic), Etodalac (Lodine), Indomethacin, Ketoralac (Toradol), Diflunisal (Dolobid), Nabumetone (Relafen), Piroxicam (Feldene), Ketoprofen

Opioid (Narcotic) prescriptions containing blood thinners

Percodan, Vicoprofen

Herbal or supplements

Creatine, Echinacea, Garlic, Ginkgo, Ginseng, St. John's Wort, Fish Oil, Vitamin E



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