

Medications to Stop Before Surgery

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ENT North

The medications below can increase the risk of bleeding during and after your surgery. Please note that although we've included the most common brand names below beside the generic name for the medications, you need to check all your medications (prescribed, over the counter and herbal medications) to ensure you are not taking a medication containing them.

Medications to stop at least seven days before your operation

- Aspirin: Cartia, Aspro, Alka-seltzer, Dispirin, Advil etc.
- Non-steroidal anti-inflammatories: ibuprofen (Nurofen, Herron Blue, Brufen etc), diclofenac (Voltaren), indomethacin (Indocid, Arthrexin), Mobic, Naprosyn etc.
- Celebrex
- Asasantin
- Ticlopidine: Ticlid etc
- Dipyridamole: Persantin etc

Over the Counter Medications

Please cease ALL vitamins, dietary supplements, alternative health supplements and herbal supplements at least two weeks before your surgery, and ask your surgeon when it is safe to restart them. Many supplements have been proven to increase bleeding or abnormal clotting with surgery, and it is impossible with most preparations to guarantee that they will not contain at least one of these known agents.

Medications requiring more complex management around your operation

Please discuss ceasing the following medications with your surgeon if you are on them. Often your surgeons will need to work with your GP or specialist to plan their management around your operation:

- Warfarin
- Clopidogrel: Iscover, Plavix, Co-plavix etc
- Rivaroxaban: Xarelto
- Apixaban: Eliquis
- Ticagrelor: Brilinta
- Heparin and related injectable blood thinners (Clexane etc)