Medications to Avoid Before Surgery

Information for when your doctor tells you to avoid aspirin, aspirin-like products, or other medications or supplements prior to surgery to prevent bleeding problems

Important Notes

- Your doctor wants you to stop taking aspirin, aspirin-like products, or non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents ________ days before your surgery or procedure. You may resume taking these products ________ days after your procedure.

- You may take acetaminophen (Tylenol®) for minor aches and pains.

- If you are unsure whether a medicine is safe to take before the time of your surgery or procedure, please ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Prescription products containing aspirin or other salicylates:

- Amigesic
- Ascomp with Codeine
- Alor
- Carisoprodol Compound
- Darvon Compound
diflunisal
- Dolobid
- Empirin with Codeine
- Fiorinal
- Lobac
- Lortab ASA
- Magan
- Magsal
- Mobidin
- Monogesic
- Norgesic
- Novasal
- Orphengesic
- Panasol
- Percodan products
- Roxiprin
- Salflex
- salsalate products
- Salsitab
- Soma products
- Synalgos-DC
- Talwin Compound
- Trilisate
- trisalicylate products
- Zorprin
Prescription products containing the following nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory agents [brand name(s) in parentheses]:

diclofenac (Voltaren, Cataflam) meclofenamate (Meclomen)
etodolac (Lodine) mfenamic acid (Ponstol)
fenoprofen (Nalfon) nabumetone (Relafen)
flurbiprofen (Ansaid) naproxen (Naprosyn, Anaprox)
ibuprofen (Motrin) oxaprozin (Daypro)
indomethacin (Indocin) piroxicam (Feldene)
ketoprofen (Orudis, Oruvail) sulindac (Clinoril)
ketorolac (Toradol) tolmetin (Tolectin)

Other prescription drugs:

celecoxib (Celebrex) dipyridamole/aspirin (Aggrenox)
cilastozol (Pletal) rofecoxib (Vioxx)
clopidogrel (Plavix) valdecoxib (Bextra)
dipyridamole (Persantine) ticlopidine (Ticlid)

Nonprescription products containing aspirin or salicylates:

Alka-Seltzer products Bayer products Halfprin
Anacin Bufferin Mobigesic
Arthropan Doans Pepto-Bismol
Ascriptin Ecotrin Saleto
Asprimox Excedrin products

Nonprescription products containing nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory agents:

Advil products Haltran Midol Extra Strength
Aleve products ibuprofen products Motrin
Dristan Sinus Menadol naproxen

Coumadin (warfarin)

Ask your doctor how many days BEFORE your surgery to stop taking this drug, and whether you will need bridge therapy with an injectable anticoagulant such as heparin or a low molecular weight heparin (enoxaparin; Lovenox).
Questions?

Your questions are important. Call your doctor or health care provider if you have questions or concerns. UWMC and SCCA Clinic staff are also available to help at any time.

UWMC Outpatient Pharmacy: 206-598-4363

SCCA Pharmacy: 206-288-6500

Herbal/vitamin supplements:

Natural products, herbal medicinals, and other supplements should be stopped seven days prior to surgery and may be resumed when approved by your doctor.

Products that can increase the risk of bleeding associated with surgery include:

- agrimony
- alfalfa
- aniseed
- arnica
- artemesia
- asa foetica
- bochu
- bogbean
- bromelains
- capsicum
- cassio
- celery seed
- chamomile
- Chinese wolfberry
- clove
- dandelion
- danshen (salvia)
- dihydroepiandrosterone (DHEA)
- dong quai (angelica)
- fenugreek
- feverfew
- fish oil
- garlic
- ginger
- ginkgo
- horse chestnut
- horseradish
- licorice
- meadowsweet
- melilot
- onion
- papain
- parsley
- passionflower
- poplar
- prickly ash
- quassia
- red clover
- sweet clover
- sweet woodruff
- tonka beans
- turmeric
- vitamin E
- wild carrot
- wild lettuce
- willow