Medicine Guidelines For Your Neurosurgery

Important Medicine Information

Talk to your doctor about any medicines you take to thin your blood or prevent clots. You may need to change these medicines or adjust the amount you take before surgery.

These medicines include:

- Aspirin
- Clopidogrel, brand name Plavix
- Prasugrel, brand name Effient
- Ticagrelor, brand name Brilinta
- Apixaban, brand name Eliquis
- Ticlopidine, brand name Ticlid
- Warfarin, brand name Coumadin
- Enoxaparin, brand name Lovenox
- Dabigatran, brand name Pradaxa
- Fondaparinux, brand name Arixtra
- Rivaroxaban, brand name Xarelto
- Cilostazol, brand name Pletal
- Edoxaban, brand name Savaysa

If you have a stent, do not stop taking your medicines to prevent clots without first talking to the doctor who put in the stent. For more information, ask a member of your health care team for the patient education handout on protecting your stent.

If you take aspirin or medicines like aspirin for arthritis pain, your doctor may have you take a different medicine in the weeks before your surgery.

This handout is for informational purposes only. Talk with your doctor or health care team if you have any questions about your care.

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If your surgery or procedure is canceled for any reason, call your doctor because you may need to restart the medicines you take to thin your blood or prevent clots.

**Medicines You Can Take the Morning of Surgery**

You make take these medicines the morning of surgery. Take your medicines with a sip of water:

- All heart medicines
- Blood pressure medicines, **do not take diuretics (water pills)**
- All breathing medicines, including inhalers
- Heartburn or gastric reflux medicines, **do not take liquid antacids such as Maalox or Mylanta**
- Pain medicine (without aspirin), if in severe pain
- Steroid medicines
- Antidepressant medicines, **do not take monomine oxidase inhibitors such as Nardil, Parnate or Eldepryl**

**Medicines You Should Not Take the Morning of Surgery**

**Do not** take these medicines the morning of surgery, unless directed to do so by your doctor:

- Insulin or oral (taken by mouth) diabetes medicine
- Diuretics (water pills)
- ACE Inhibitors for blood pressure
- Digoxin, unless used for an irregular heartbeat (atrial fibrillation)

**Medicines You Must Stop Taking Before Surgery**

Some medicines may need to be stopped within two weeks before your surgery. These medicines include:

- Lovenox should be stopped 1 day before surgery.
- Glucophage (Metformin) should be stopped 2 days before surgery.
- Trental (Pentoxil, Pentoxifylline) should be stopped 3 days before surgery.
- Coumadin, Pradaxa, Xarelto, and Brillinta should be stopped 5 days before surgery.

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• Ibuprofen, such as Advil or Aleve, should be stopped 7 days before surgery.
• Plavix, Pletal, Effient and Ticlid should be stopped 7 days before surgery.
• Monoamine oxidase inhibitors, such as Nardil, Parnate, Eldepryl, should be stopped 7 to 14 days before surgery.
• All herbal medicines should be stopped 14 days before surgery.
• Excederin should be stopped 7 days before surgery.

If you are taking a medicine that is not listed above, please contact the doctor that prescribed the medicine for you and ask for instructions about what you should do.