Preparing for Your Pacemaker or ICD Implant or Extraction

How to take your medicines before your surgery

• If you take warfarin (Coumadin or Jantoven), ______________________________________
  __________________________________________________.

• If you take dabigatran (Pradaxa), apixaban (Eliquis) or rivaroxaban (Xarelto), ______________
  __________________________________________________.

• If you have been instructed to hold any of these medicines, please take one 325 mg aspirin
each day you hold the medicine.
• If you take clopidogrel (Plavix), ticagrelor (Brilinta) or prasugrel (Effient), ______________
  __________________________________________________.

• If you take medicines for diabetes, please follow the directions on the handout given to you
for changes to your diabetes medicines.
• Take all of your other medicines with a small amount of water the morning of your surgery.
• Please bring all of your medicines in their bottles to the hospital with you.
• If you are allergic to shellfish, iodine or contrast dye, please tell your health care provider. A
prescription for 3 doses of prednisone can be sent to your pharmacy. Take the first dose 13
hours before your surgery start time, another dose 7 hours before surgery start time and your
last dose 1 hour before your surgery start time. Please also take 50 mg of Benadryl 1 hour
before your surgery start time. You can buy Benadryl over the counter. Bring your last dose of
prednisone and your Benadryl dose with you to the hospital.
Getting your skin ready for surgery

1. For one week before your surgery, do not shave near the site where you will have your surgery. Shaving with a razor can irritate your skin and make it easier to develop an infection. If needed, the hair on the site where you will have surgery will be trimmed with electric clippers before you go into the operating room.

2. You need to take two showers using a special soap called CHG (4% chlorhexidine gluconate). It is sold in most pharmacies under the brand name of Hibiclens. Wash from your neck to your waist with this soap the night before your surgery and then again the morning of your surgery. Use 4 ounces (1/2 cup) of CHG soap each time you shower.

If you are not able to shower

If you do not have a shower or you are not able to get into a shower, do a sponge bath each time you clean your body.

How to take a sponge bath:

1. First, bathe with a clean washcloth, water and regular soap. Rinse well with clean water.
2. Then, get a clean washcloth and wet it with clean water.
3. Apply some CHG soap to the wet washcloth.
4. Use the washcloth to wash from your neck to your waist. Keep adding more CHG and continue to wash for 5 minutes.
5. Rinse well with another clean washcloth and clean water.
6. Pat yourself dry with a clean towel.
7. Put on clean clothes.

Other instructions

• If you are pregnant, think you may be pregnant or if you are breastfeeding, please tell your health care provider right away.
• Do not smoke or use tobacco products for 24 hours before your surgery.
• Do not eat or drink anything after midnight on the evening before your surgery. You may take your scheduled medicines with small sips of water the morning of your surgery.
• If you use a sleep apnea machine, please bring the device with you. It will likely be used during your surgery and during your stay in the hospital.
• Some patients are discharged home the day of their surgery, but please come prepared to spend at least one night in the hospital. If you are discharged home the day of surgery, you will need to have an adult take you home for your safety.

If you need to change your surgery date, please call Scheduling at 1-888-293-7677.
If you have any questions, please call the nurse at ________________________________.

Talk to your doctor or health care team if you have any questions about your care.

For more health information, contact the Library for Health Information at 614-293-3707 or e-mail health-info@osu.edu.

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