

Blood Thinning Medicines to Avoid Before Surgery

Certain medicines thin the blood and can keep the blood from clotting. If you take blood thinning medicines, you may need to stop taking them before surgery.

Precautions



If you take aspirin, anti-platelet medicine or blood thinning medicine, **do not stop taking this medicine until you talk to your doctor, cardiologist (heart doctor) or internal medicine doctor first.** If you cannot reach your doctor, talk with your MD Anderson surgical team. You may also call 713-792-6133 to speak with a nurse in the PeriOperative Evaluation and Management Center.

Do not stop this medicine without guidance from your doctor. Stopping this medicine on your own can be dangerous.

Tell your doctor about all medicines you are taking or have taken recently. This includes prescribed and over-the-counter medicines, nutritional supplements, vitamins, minerals and herbal products, even if they are not listed below. Your care team will tell you which medicines you will need to avoid.

Below is a list of some of the medicines that affect how the blood clots.

Anti-Platelet Medicines

- Clopidogrel (Plavix[®])
- Cilostazol (Pletal[®])
- Dipyridamole (Persantine[®], Aggrenox[®])
- Prasugrel (Effient[®])
- Ticagrelor (Brilinta[®])
- Ticlopidine (Ticlid[®])
- Vorapaxar (Zontivity[®])

Injectable Blood Thinning Medicines

- Dalteparin (Fragmin[®])
- Enoxaparin (Lovenox[®])
- Fondaparinux (Arixtra[®])
- Tinzaparin (Innohep[®])

Anti-Coagulant Medicines

- Apixaban (Eliquis[®])
- Dabigatran Etexilate (Pradaxa[®])
- Edoxaban (Savaysa[®])
- Lepirudin (Refludan[®])
- Rivaroxaban (Xarelto[®])
- Warfarin (Coumadin[®])

Over-the-Counter Medicines and Herbal Products

- Aspirin
- Ephedra/Ma Huang[®]
- Fish Oil
- Ginseng
- Glucosamine/chondroitin
- Garlic
- Gingko biloba
- Ibuprofen (Motrin[®], Advil[®], Nuprin[®])
- Naproxen (Anaprox[®], Aleve[®], Naprosyn[®])
- St. John's Wort