

# Anticoagulation Guidelines

SUNA Postoperative Care Task Force

## Overview

Anticoagulation medication is a blood-thinning medication taken for an underlying medical condition and is stopped prior to a procedure. Discuss with your surgeon before the procedure on whether to stop this medication.

If taking any of the following medications, you will need to stop taking it usually 2 to 3 days before major surgery and 1 day prior to the procedure. You may be told to restart these medications 3 days or more after the procedure:

- Eliquis (Apixaban).
- Xarelto (Rivaroxaban).
- Pradaxa (Dabigatran).
- Coumadin (Warfarin).

***You will receive specific instructions from your surgical team.***

If taking any of the following medications, you will need to stop taking it 7 days prior to the procedure. You may restart any of these medications 3 days after the procedure:

- Aspirin.
- Plavix (Clopidogrel).

If taking Motrin/ibuprofen/naproxen/Aleve/Advil, vitamin E, and herbal medications, you will need to stop taking it 7 days prior to procedure.

Please make sure to have a discussion with your primary care provider and/or cardiologist to be sure they are aware of stopping any medication for the procedure.

**\*\*Any questions concerning medications, call the clinic.**

## Resources

- Culkin, D.J., Exaire, E.J., Green, D., Soloway, M.S., Gross, A.J., Desai, M.R., White, J.R., & Lightner, D.J. (2014). Anticoagulation and antiplatelet therapy in urologic practice: ICUD/AUA review paper. *Journal of Urology*, 192(4), 1026-1034. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.juro.2014.04.103>
- Gutierrez, J.J.P., & Rocuts, K.R. (2021). Perioperative anticoagulation management. *StatPearls*. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK557590/>
- Shaikh, S.I., Kumari, R.V., Hegade, G., & Marutheesh, M. (2017). Perioperative considerations and management of patients receiving anticoagulants. *Anesthesia Essays and Researches*, 11(1), 10-16. <https://doi.org/10.4103/0259-1162.179313>

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*We hope you and all your family members may benefit from these handouts.*

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