

Medicines to Avoid Before Surgery

When your doctor tells you to avoid certain medicines or supplements, to prevent bleeding problems

This handout lists specific medicines and supplements that you should avoid before your surgery. Please review with your doctor all medicines that you are taking.

Getting Ready for Surgery

To prevent bleeding problems, your doctor may want you to stop taking some prescription, nonprescription, and herbal medicines before your surgery.

Review with your doctor all medicines and supplements you are taking.



Before your surgery, make sure you review with your doctor all medicines and supplements you are taking.

IMPORTANT: Talk with your doctor BEFORE you stop taking these prescription anti-platelet drugs used to prevent blood clots, heart attack, or stroke:

- Aspirin
- Clopidogrel (Plavix)
- Dipyridamole (Persantine)
- Dipyridamole/aspirin (Aggrenox)
- Prasugrel (Effluent)
- Ticagrelor (Brilinta)

IMPORTANT: These prescription anticoagulant (blood-thinning) drugs require special instructions before you stop or restart taking them. Ask your doctor or Anticoagulation Clinic for instructions.

- Apixaban (Eliquis)
- Dabigatran (Pradaxa)
- Dalteparin (Fragmin)
- Edoxaban (Savaysa)
- Enoxaparin (Lovenox)
- Fondaparinux (Arixtra)
- Rivaroxaban (Xarelto)
- Warfarin (Coumadin)

Avoid the Products Listed Below

You will need to avoid the products listed below **in the days before and after surgery**. Here are your specific instructions from your doctor:

- Stop taking the products listed in this handout _____ days **before** your surgery.
- You may resume taking these products _____ days after your surgery.
- You may take acetaminophen (Tylenol) as needed for minor aches and pains.

Please note that the lists in this handout are not complete. Other products or supplements may also cause bleeding problems. Check with your doctor if you have questions about specific products.

Prescription pain-relief drugs that contain aspirin or other salicylates:

- Ascomp with codeine
- Carisoprodol compound
- Empirin with codeine
- Fiorinal
- Lanorinal
- Percodan products
- Salsalate products
- Soma products
- Trisalicylate products
- Zorprin

Prescription pain-relief drugs that contain nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory agents:

- Diclofenac (Volataren, Cataflam)
- Etodolac (Lodine)
- Fenoprofen (Nalfon)
- Flurbiprofen (Ansaid)
- Ibuprofen (Motrin)
- Indomethacin (Indocin)
- Ketoprofen (Orudis, Oruvail)
- Ketorolac (Toradol)
- Meclofenamate (Meclomen)
- Mefenamic Acid (Ponstel)
- Meloxicam (Mobic)
- Nabumetone (Relafen)
- Naproxen (Naprosyn, Anaprox)
- Oxaprozin (Daypro)
- Piroxicam (Feldene)
- Sulindac (Clinoril)
- Tolemetin (Tolectin)

Other prescription pain-relief drugs:

- Celecoxib (Celebrex)
- Valdecoxib (Bextra)

❑ **Nonprescription products that contain aspirin or salicylate:**

- Alka-Seltzer products
- Anacin
- Bayer products
- Buffasal
- Bufferin
- Buffinol
- Doan's
- Durlaza
- Ecotrin
- Ecpirin
- Empirin
- Excedrin products
- Fem-prin
- Halfprin
- Miniprin
- Pain-off
- Pepto-Bismol
- Saleto
- St. Joseph Adult
- Vanquish

❑ **Nonprescription products that contain nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs:**

- Advil products
- Aleve products
- Ibuprofen products
- Midol Extra Strength
- Motrin
- Naproxen

Herbal Products and Other Natural Supplements

Starting 7 days before your surgery, stop taking ALL:

- Herbal products
- Natural supplements
- Vitamins
- Other supplements

You may start taking them again when your doctor says it is OK.

On the next page is a list of foods, herbs, and natural products that may cause extra bleeding. **These products are especially harmful to take if you are having surgery.**

❑ **Foods, natural supplements, and herbs that may cause bleeding problems during and after surgery:**

- Agrimony
- Alfalfa
- Aniseed
- Arnica
- Artemesia
- Asa foetida
- Bishop's weed
- Bladderwrack
- Bochu
- Bogbean
- Boldo
- Bromelains
- Burdock
- Capsicum
- Cassio
- Celery seed
- Chamomile
- Chinese wolfberry
- Chondroitin
- Clove
- Cod liver oil
- Coltsfoot
- Dandelion
- Danshen (salvia)
- Devil's claw
- Dihydroepiandrosterone (DHEA)
- Dong quai (angelica)
- Fenugreek
- Feverfew
- Fish oil
- Flax seed
- Gamma linoleic acid
- Garlic
- Ginger
- Ginkgo
- Ginseng
- Glucosamine
- Horse chestnut
- Horseradish
- Licorice
- Meadowsweet
- Melatonin
- Melilot
- Nattokinase
- Onion
- Pantethine
- Papain (papaya extract)
- Parsley
- Passionflower
- Policosanol
- Poplar
- Prickly ash
- Quassia
- Red clover
- Resveratrol
- Sea buckthorn
- Sweet clover
- Sweet woodruff
- Tonka beans
- Turmeric
- Vinpocetine
- Vitamin E
- Wild carrot
- Wild lettuce
- Willow bark

Questions?

Your questions are important. Call your doctor or healthcare provider if you have questions or concerns.

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