

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY: VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS ON MEDICATIONS

Certain medications can increase the risk of bleeding or other complications during anesthesia and surgery.

- For most surgeries, aspirin, and Plavix (clopidogrel) should be held for seven days before surgery. However, patients having carotid endarterectomy surgery and some vascular surgeries, as well as many patients with the recent placement of a coronary stent, are to remain on these medications up to and including the day of surgery. Please check with your surgeon or cardiologist. Type of surgery and other medical problems will determine whether these medications will be stopped.
- **Ticlid (Ticlopidine)** should be stopped two weeks before surgery.
- If you are currently taking **Coumadin, Heparin, Lovenox, or Fragmin**, discuss this with your surgeon and/or the health care provider that manages this medication (usually your family physician or specialist). Discontinuing the medication depends on your medical condition, surgery, and past medical history.
- Your surgeon may want you to stop taking **anti-inflammatory** medications also known as **NSAIDS (Ibuprofen, Naproxen, Aleve, Advil, etc.)** four days before surgery. Medications such as **Celebrex** may be continued until three days before surgery.
- For your safety, **herbal medicines** should be stopped one week before surgery. These may interact with anesthesia or lead to increased bleeding.
- **Diabetic patients** will receive individual instructions regarding oral diabetic medications and insulin during their Anesthesia Clinic visit.
- You should usually continue **beta blockers**, such as **metoprolol (Toprol, Lopressor)**, **atenolol (Tenormin)**, or **propranolol (Inderal)**; **blood pressure medications**; and **anti-reflux medications**, such as **omeprazole (Prilosec)**, **ranitidine (Zantac)**, **rabeprozole (Aciphex)**, or **esomeprazole (Nexium)** up to and including the morning of surgery.
- You may continue taking **narcotic medications or Paracetamol** for pain until you come to the hospital for surgery.
- All your medications and instructions will be reviewed at your surgeon and/or anesthesiologist visit
- Please bring a list of medications and dosages to any of your consultations.

Common aspirin containing drugs which should be avoided seven days before your procedure. These often will have salicylic acid or salicylate in the ingredients list:

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| • Aggrenox | • BC Powder | • Fiorinal with codeine |
| • Alka Seltzer pain, cold, and flu preparations | • Bufferin | • Norgesic |
| • Aspirin (including chewable, low-dose) | • Darvon compound | • Orphengesic |
| • Ascriptin | • Doan's pills | • Percodan |
| • Arthrotec | • Ecotrin | • St. John's Wort |
| • Bayer Aspirin (Bayer products) | • Endodan | • SOMA compound |
| | • Excedrin | • Synalogue DC capsule |
| | • Fiorinal | |

Cape Town Sports and Orthopaedic Clinic, Suite 1514, Christiaan Barnard Memorial Hospital, Foreshore, Cape Town, 8001

✉ drswanadmin@ctorth.com ☎ +2721 001 7608 🌐 www.dradrswan.com

HPCSA: MP0686727 Practice number: 0961493