

UW Medicine

Stopping Medicines Before Your Neurosurgery

What you need to know

This handout lists medicines you can and cannot take in the days before your neurosurgery.

Why do I need to stop taking some of my medicines?

Some medicines may increase your risk of bleeding. These medicines should be stopped before your surgery.

What should I do?

Read the section “Medicines to Stop Taking” on page 2. See if any of your medicines are on the list of drugs that should be stopped.

If you are taking any of the drugs on the list:

- Talk with your surgeon before you stop taking any prescribed medicines. Make sure you know which medicines to stop and when.
- Tell your PCP that you are having neurosurgery, and that your surgeon has told you to stop taking some of your medicines before the procedure. If you or your PCP have questions, please call the Neurosurgery Clinic at 206.744.9340.
- If you do not stop taking these medicines as your surgeon has instructed, we will need to reschedule your surgery.



Talk with your surgeon before you stop taking any prescribed medicines.

Other Instructions

- If you have allergies to medicines or *contrast* (X-ray dye), you may need to take other medicines before your surgery. If needed, a member of your care team will call you with instructions.
- On the day before your surgery, a nurse will call you and review your medicines and instructions.

Medicines to Stop Taking Before Surgery

Talk with your surgeon if you are taking any of the medicines listed below, or any *anticoagulants* (blood-thinners) not listed. **Follow your surgeon's instructions about when to stop your medicines before surgery.**

Anticoagulant and Anti-Platelet Aggregation Medicines

Drug	Brand Name	Most Patients Stop Taking
Enoxaparin	Lovenox	Night before surgery
Heparin	Heparin	
Apixaban	Eliquis	3 days before surgery
Dabigatran etelixate	Pradaxa	
Edoxaban	Savaysa	
Fondaparinux	Arixtra	
Rivaroxaban	Xarelto	
Aspirin	Bayer, Bufferin, Excedrin	7 days before surgery
Clopidogrel	Plavix	
Dalteparin	Fragmin	
Prasugrel	Effient	
Ticagrelor	Brilinta	
Warfarin	Coumadin	14 days before surgery
Ticlopidine	Ticlid	

Questions?

Your questions are important. Call one of the numbers below if you have questions or concerns.

For scheduling, call the Contact Center at 206.744.9340.

To talk with a clinic nurse weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., call 206.744.9340 and press 2.

After hours and on weekends and holidays, call the Community Care Nurse at 206.744.2500.

Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory (NSAID) Medicines

Most times, these medicines should be held **7 days before** neurosurgery.

- Celecoxib (Celebrex)
- Ibuprofen (Advil, Children's Advil, Children's Motrin, Motrin, Nuprin, Rufen)
- Ketorolac tromethamine (Toradol)
- Meloxicam (Mobic)
- Naproxen (Aleve, Anaprox, BC-Naprosyn, Naprelan)

Medicines That Are OK to Take

If you use a type of medicine listed below, your surgery can proceed as planned. But, please check with your surgeon to make sure that it is OK to keep taking your medicine before and after your surgery.

- Acetaminophen (Tylenol)
- Steroids (ask your surgeon)
- Contraceptives: Oral, patch, or ring