

Medication and Surgery

BEFORE YOUR OPERATION



AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

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Your medications may have to be adjusted before your operation. Some medication can affect your recovery and response to anesthesia. Write down all of the medications you are taking. A blank medication list is provided if you need it.

Make a list. Your list should include:

- Any prescription medications
- Over-the-counter (OTC) medications (such as aspirin or Tylenol)
- Herbs, vitamins, and supplements
- Tell your doctor if you smoke and how often you drink alcohol or use other recreational drugs.



Check with your doctor about:

- When to stop taking all vitamins, herbs, and diet supplements. This could be 10 to 14 days before and up to 7 days after your test or operation.
- How to take your medication on the morning of your operation. You may be instructed to take some of your medications even though you won't be able to eat that morning. Take your medications with a sip of water only.
- How to adjust your insulin the morning of your operation since you will not be eating. The doctor who normally manages your insulin often develops the plan for your operation.
- If you need to adjust your medication that affects blood clotting. These drugs may be adjusted up to 7 days before your operation. Your doctor will let you know when to restart taking these drugs. (See following list.)

List of medications that affect blood clotting:*

- **Antiplatelet Medication:** Anagrelide (Agrylin[®]), aspirin (any brand, all doses), cilostazol (Pletal[®]), clopidogrel (Plavix[®]), dipyridamole (Persantine[®]), dipyridamole/aspirin (Aggrenox[®]), enteric-coated aspirin (Ecotrin[®]), ticlopidine (Ticlid[®])
- **Anticoagulant Medication:** Anisindione (Miradon[®]), Arixtra, enoxaparin (Lovenox[®]) injection, Fragmin, heparin injection, Pradaxa, pentosan polysulfate (Elmiron[®]), warfarin (Coumadin[®]), Xarelto
- **Nonsteroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs:** Celebrex, diclofenac (Voltaren[®], Cataflam[®]), diflunisal (Dolobid[®]), etodolac (Lodine[®]), fenoprofen (Nalfon[®]), flurbiprofen (Ansaid[®]), ibuprofen (Motrin[®], Advil[®], Nuprin[®], Rufen[®]), indomethacin (Indocin[®]), ketoprofen (Orudis[®], Actron[®]), ketorlac (Toradol[®]), meclufenamate (Meclomen[®]), meloxicam (Mobic[®]), nabumeton (Relafen[®]), naproxen (Naprosyn[®], Naprelan[®], Aleve[®]), oxaprozin (Daypro[®]), piroxicam (Feldene[®]), salsalate (Salflex[®], Disalcid[®]), sulindac (Clinoril[®]), sulfipyrazone tolmetin (Tolectin[®]), trilisate (salicylate combination)
- **Herbs/Vitamins:** Ajoene birch bark, cayenne, Chinese black tree fungus, cumin, evening primrose oil, feverfew, garlic, ginger, ginkgo biloba, ginseng, grape seed extract, milk thistle, Omega 3 fatty acids, onion extract, St. John's wort, tumeric, vitamins C and E

*The above list includes common medications but is not a complete list.

This information is published to educate you about preparing for your surgical procedures. It is not intended to take the place of a discussion with a qualified surgeon who is familiar with your situation. It is important to remember that each individual is different, and the reasons and outcomes of any operation depend upon the patient's individual condition.

The American College of Surgeons is a scientific and educational organization that is dedicated to the ethical and competent practice of surgery; it was founded to raise the standards of surgical practice and to improve the quality of care for the surgical patient. The ACS has endeavored to present information for prospective surgical patients based on current scientific information; there is no warranty on the timeliness, accuracy, or usefulness of this content.

Patient Education
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Medication List

Name _____

Surgeon Name _____

Primary Doctor Name _____

P A T I E N T — P L E A S E C O M P L E T E

Allergy	Reaction

I have no allergies.

Medication/Supplements	Your dose (How much—for example 10 mg)	When do you take it? (List times—for example 9:00 am)

I take no medications, vitamins, or herb supplements.

H E A L T H C A R E P R O V I D E R S — P L E A S E C O M P L E T E

BEFORE YOUR OPERATION—MEDICATION CHANGES

- Keep taking all medications before your operation. Take your morning medications with a sip of water on the day of your operation.
- Talk to your primary doctor about changes in your insulin.
- Talk to your primary doctor/specialist about changes in blood thinners.
- Change the following medications.

Medication	Your Changes

AFTER YOUR OPERATION

At discharge, you will be given a list or instructions about restarting your previous medications.
You will be given prescriptions for any new medication.

Doctor's Notes
