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Medications to Avoid Prior to Surgery

Aspirin or drugs containing aspirin may cause bleeding during or after surgery. **Aspirin or aspirin products should therefore be avoided for two weeks before and after surgery.** The following is a list of examples of these medications. Tylenol is a safe alternative to aspirin.

4-Way Cold Tabs	Carisopridol	Genprin	Percodan
Acuprin	Congespirin	Gensan	Robatussin
Adprin B	Cospirin	Goody's Headache	Roxiprin
Alka-Seltzer	Cope	Halfprin	Robaxisal
Anacin	Damason-P	Hycopap	Sine-off
Antacids	Darvon	Ibuprofin	Sloprin
APC, Tabloid	Di-Gesic	Isollyl	St. Joseph's
Arthritis Pain	Doan's	Lortab ASA	Stanback Powder
Formula	Easprin	Magan	Supac
Ascriptin	Ecotrin	Magnaprin	Synalgos DC
Aspergum	Empirin	Micrainin	Talwin
Asprimox	Equagesic	Midol	Tricosal
Axotal	Excedrin	Mobidin	Trilisate
Bayer's Aspirin	Fioricet	Momentum	Ursinus
BC Powder	Fiorinal	Norgesic	Vanquish
Bufferin	Fortabs	PAC Analgesic	Zoprin
Buffex	Gelpirin	Panasol 5/500	
Cama Arthritis Pain	Gemnisyn	Pepto-Bismol	

There are other types of medications that do not contain aspirin but also impair the clotting mechanism. These medications should also be avoided:

Aches n Pain	Daypro	Motrin	Oscalgesic
Acthar	Dolobid	Nalfon	Oruvail
Advil	Feldene	Naprosyn	Phenylbutazone
Aleve	Ibuprofen	Naproxen	Relafen, Rufen
Anaprox	Indocin	Niacin	Tolectin
Clinoril	Lodine	Nuprin	Toradol

There are vitamins, herbs, and homeopathic medications that may cause bleeding or may interact with various medications used during surgery. **Stop taking all herbal and homeopathic medications two weeks before surgery.** These may be resumed two weeks after surgery. The following are some examples of medications that are known to cause bleeding or other problems during or after surgery.

Vitamin E	Ginger	Chamomile	Glucosamine
Garlic	Ginseng	Ephedra	Multivitamin
St. John's Wart	Ginko biloba	Melatonin	Kava
Fish Oil (omega-3)	Echinacea	Chondroitin	Valerian root

Other medications to avoid are the antidepressants known as MAO inhibitors which include Nardil and Parnate. Vitamins C, D, calcium, and folic acid are safe to take individually, but not if they are included in a multivitamin. Weight loss remedies and dietary supplements should be stopped as well. Avoid alcohol one week before and after surgery.

If you are taking birth control pills or hormone replacement therapy, they must be discontinued **at least four weeks prior to surgery and four weeks after surgery**. These medications can increase the risk of developing blood clots in the legs after surgery, a potentially life threatening problem.

If you are taking any medications which are not listed and you are not sure about, please call the office and we will check them for you.

Revised: 10/11