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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 | Hycy-Pap | 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.

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