

STOPPING ANTICOAGULATION BEFORE AN OPERATION, MEDICAL OR DENTAL PROCEDURE:



TURNAROUND

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL

If you are taking anticoagulation therapy to reduce your risk of AF-related stroke and are due to have an operation or a medical/dental procedure that could cause bleeding, you might need to stop taking your anticoagulation therapy for a short period of time.

The following list highlights just some of the operations and medical/dental procedures that may require you to stop taking your anticoagulant. However, this is not an exhaustive list. You should speak to your healthcare professional at the earliest opportunity, but **do not** stop taking your anticoagulation therapy unless your healthcare professional has told you to:

All major operations, including:	Other medical/dental procedures including:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vascular surgery • orthopaedic surgery • surgeries lasting \geq 45 minutes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • endoscopy • eye surgery (including cataracts) • dental extraction • pacemaker and defibrillator insertion • biopsies (including bladder, prostate, thyroid, breast and lymph node).

The decision to stop your anticoagulation and for how long will depend on aspects of your medical history such as any previous bleeding problems and your kidney function.

What to do if you are taking an anticoagulant and you have an operation, medical/dental procedure scheduled

It is important to speak to your healthcare professional about your anticoagulation therapy at the earliest opportunity. This will enable them to assess:

1. If any measures need to be taken, such as if you need to stop taking your anticoagulant therapy
2. When you should stop taking it
3. How long you should stop taking it following your surgery or medical/dental procedure

Questions to ask your healthcare professional

You may have some concerns about stopping your anticoagulation therapy. Below is a handy guide of questions you might want to ask the healthcare team doing the operation or medical procedure:

- Do I need to stop my anticoagulation therapy?
- When should I stop my anticoagulation therapy before the operation or medical/dental procedure?
- When should I restart taking my anticoagulation therapy again after the operation or medical/dental procedure?
- Will I need to be given another type of medication to help protect me whilst my anticoagulation therapy is stopped?
- Is there anything I need to be aware of or consider when I restart my anticoagulation therapy?

You should also show your healthcare professional the alert card or yellow INR Book that you were given when you first began anticoagulation therapy to manage your risk of an AF-related stroke. If you do not have a patient alert card, your healthcare professional or pharmacist can provide you with one.

If your healthcare professional confirms that you do need to temporarily stop anticoagulation therapy, write down here exactly how, when and for how long you will temporarily discontinue your anticoagulation therapy before you leave your appointment. **If you have any doubts, ask your healthcare professional to reconfirm any agreed plans.**

Type of operation / medical procedure:

Am I required to stop my anticoagulation? Yes / No

Anticoagulation stopping date:

Anticoagulation restart date:

Anything else I need to be aware of:

Will I need a blood test before I restart?

Notes:

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For more information on anticoagulation therapies and atrial fibrillation visit: afturnaround.co.uk

The AF Turnaround Campaign has been initiated and funded by an Alliance between Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharmaceuticals Ltd and Pfizer Ltd (the BMS-Pfizer Alliance), working in partnership with the AF Association, Anticoagulation UK, and Arrhythmia Alliance. A Steering Committee of expert healthcare professionals have been involved in its development. As part of the funding for the campaign, the BMS-Pfizer Alliance has paid participants for their time and expenses related to the campaign.

