Stopping Medicines Before Your Cerebral Angiogram

What you need to know

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

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

Some medicines may increase your risk of bleeding during your angiogram. These medicines should be stopped before your procedure.

What should I do?

• Read the section “Medicines to Stop Taking” on page 2. Compare this list with your medicines.

• If you are taking any of the medicines listed, you should stop taking them 7 to 10 days before your procedure. If you do not stop taking these medicines as instructed, we will need to reschedule your procedure.

• Talk with your primary care provider (PCP) before you stop taking any prescribed medicines. If you or your PCP have questions, please call the Neurosurgery Clinic at 206.744.9340.

• On the day before your procedure, a nurse will call you to review your medicines and instructions. If you have any allergies to medicines, contrast (X-ray dye), or shellfish, you may need to take other medicines before the procedure.
Medicines to Stop Taking
Drugs are listed alphabetically by their generic name. Common brand names are shown in parentheses.

Anticoagulant and Anti-Platelet Aggregation Medicines
- Apixaban (Eliquis): Check with your PCP. This medicine is usually stopped 72 hours (3 days) before the procedure.
- Dabigatran etexilate (Pradaxa): Check with your PCP. This medicine is usually stopped 72 hours (3 days) before the procedure.
- Edoxaban (Savaysa): Check with your PCP. This medicine is usually stopped 72 hours (3 days) before the procedure.
- Enoxaparin (Lovenox): Check with your PCP. This medicine is usually stopped the night before the procedure.
- Rivaroxaban (Xarelto): Check with your PCP. This medicine is usually stopped 72 hours (3 days) before the procedure.
- Warfarin (Coumadin): Check with your PCP. This medicine is usually stopped 7 days before the procedure.

Diabetes Medicines
- Glucophage (Metformin): This medicine will be held after the procedure. You can resume your usual doses 48 hours after the procedure.

Medicines That Are OK to Take
If you take a medicine listed below, your procedure can proceed as planned. But, please check with your PCP to make sure that it is OK to keep taking your medicine before and after your procedure.
Drugs are listed alphabetically by their generic name. Common brand names are shown in parentheses.

- Aspirin or acetylsalicylic acid
- Celecoxib (Celebrex)
- Clopidogrel (Plavix)
- Ibuprofen (Advil, Children’s Advil, Children’s Motrin, Motrin, Nuprin, Rufen)
- Ketorolac tromethamine (Toradol)
- Meloxicam (Mobic)
- Naproxen (Aleve, Anaprox, BC-Naprosyn, Naprelan)
- Prasugrel (Effient)
- Oral, patch, or ring contraceptives