

*Patients taking anticoagulants (blood thinners) have to stop them before any invasive procedures. The concern is uncontrolled bleeding. This must be discussed with your surgeon prior to having any invasive procedure.*

Examples of prescription blood thinners include:

- **Coumadin** (warfarin)
- **Antiplatelet drugs:** Agrylin (Anagrelide), Plavix (clopidogrel), Ticlid (ticlopidine), Dipyridamole (Aggrenox, Persantine), Pentoxifylline (Trental), Cilostazol (Pletal), Effient (prasugrel)
- **Heparin Anticoagulants:** Lovenox (enoxaparin, LMWH), Heparin (unfractionated)
- **Other Anticoagulants:** Xarelto (rivaroxaban), Pradaxa (dabigatran)

Examples of over the counter blood thinner medications:

- **NSAID's :** Aspirins and NSAID's (Advil/ibuprofen, Motrin, Aleve, celebrex, diclofenec, indomethacin, bextra...)

Tylenol is not a blood thinner. It is safe to use when off your blood thinners.

### **SURGERY / INVASIVE PROCEDURES / EGD / COLONOSCOPY**

- A. **STOP Coumadin,** for at least 5 full days before your procedure.  
**STOP ALL Antiplatelet Drugs,** for at least 7 full days before your procedure  
**STOP Heparin Anticoagulants,** for at least 24hrs before your procedure  
**STOP All Other Anticoagulants Drugs,** for at least 2 full days (if have renal disease/failure 5 days)  
**STOP ALL NSAID's,** for 7 full days before your procedure.
- B. **RESTART** ALL Anticoagulants can be restarted the evening of your procedure or the next day.
- C. **WHILE off of your Blood Thinner(s),** you may need to be on a different blood thinner to protect you during this time off you med. It is very important to inform your doctor you take these medications so he/she can determine if another medication is required during the period you are not on your regular blood thinner.

*If you have not discussed with your surgeon when to stop your blood thinner medication or if you have to start another, call immediately.*