What will my dentist do?

Your dentist will plan the most suitable dental treatment for you. He/she will discuss your treatment options with you.

Your dentist can also take other steps to minimise any bleeding that takes place during your dental treatment.

- In most cases your dentist will be able to carry out your dental treatment as usual and will not advise you to alter your medication.
- For some procedures that can cause more bleeding, your dentist may advise you to delay or miss taking your NOAC drug on the morning of your dental treatment. Your dentist will tell you when to take the next dose after the treatment.
- Your dentist may only carry out a small amount of treatment to start with, or may spread out your treatment over several visits.
- Your dentist might put some sutures (stitches) in to help stop any bleeding.

Your dentist will give you information about what to do after your treatment and who to contact if you have any concerns about post-treatment bleeding.

Scottish Dental Clinical Effectiveness Programme

NHS Education for Scotland

This leaflet has been developed by the **Scottish Dental Clinical Effectiveness Programme (SDCEP),** part of NHS Education for Scotland. This and other patient information is available on the SDCEP website.

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NOACs and Your Dental Treatment

Information for Patients



This information is for anyone who is taking one of the NOACs (Novel Oral Anticoagulants):

- **dabigatran** (Pradaxa);
- **rivaroxaban** (Xarelto);
- **apixaban** (Eliquis),

and needs dental treatment.

These anticoagulants may also be called DOACs (Direct Oral Anticoagulants) or TSOACs (Target Specific Oral Anticoagulants).

Why have I been given this leaflet?

You have been given this leaflet because the medication you are taking can affect your dental treatment.

The anticoagulant or 'blood-thinner' you are taking helps to prevent harmful blood clots from forming in your blood vessels. Because these drugs work by reducing the formation of blood clots, they can also make you bleed more easily and for longer. This may happen especially if you are having treatment which would normally cause bleeding, such as some dental procedures.

There are some things that you and your dentist can do to reduce the chance of you having any bleeding problems after dental treatment (see pages 3 & 4).

Can I clean my teeth as usual while taking an anticoagulant?



Yes, it is important for everyone to maintain good oral hygiene and you should continue to clean your teeth as usual.

Poor oral hygiene can lead to periodontal disease (gum disease) where the gums become swollen and bleed more easily. By taking care of your oral health you can prevent gum disease and also reduce the need for dental treatment that might cause bleeding.

You should still go to your dentist and hygienist as usual when taking an anticoagulant.

What do I need to do?



It is very important that your dentist knows what medications you are taking and what medical conditions you have.

By dentist we also mean your dental hygienist or dental therapist.

- Tell your dentist which of the NOACs you are taking: apixaban, dabigatran or rivaroxaban.
- Tell the dentist about all other medications you are taking, both prescribed and non-prescribed.
  - It would be helpful to show the dentist all of your prescriptions.
  - Aspirin and other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) such as ibuprofen and diclofenac can cause you to bleed more.
  - You should also tell your dentist about any herbal or complementary medicines you are taking.
- Tell the dentist about any medical conditions that you have, particularly if you have a kidney or liver condition.
  - These conditions can cause you to bleed more.

This information will allow your dentist to decide on the most suitable treatment for you. Your dentist may contact your doctor if he/she requires more information.