

Anticoagulant or Antiplatelet Medication and Your Dental Treatment

Information for Patients

This information is for anyone who needs dental treatment and is taking one of the following drugs:

- a **Direct Oral Anticoagulant**, also known as a **DOAC**
 - apixaban (Eliquis), dabigatran (Pradaxa), rivaroxaban (Xarelto) or edoxaban (Lixiana);
- a **Vitamin K Antagonist oral anticoagulant**
 - warfarin (Marevan), acenocoumarol (Sinthrome) or phenindione (Dindevan);
- an **injectable anticoagulant**
 - dalteparin (Fragmin), enoxaparin (Clexane, Inhixia, Arovi) or tinzaparin (Innohep); or
- one or more **antiplatelet drugs**
 - aspirin, clopidogrel (Plavix, Grepid), dipyrimadole (Attia Modified Release, Ofcram PR, Asasantin Retard, Molita Modified Release), prasugrel (Efient) or ticagrelor (Brilique).

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 medication you are taking helps to prevent harmful blood clots forming in your blood vessels. However, these drugs can also make you bleed more easily and for longer. This may happen if you are having treatment that 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 this medication?



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. It can also cause tooth decay. By taking care of your oral health you can prevent gum disease and reduce the need for dental treatment that might cause bleeding.

You should still go to your dentist and hygienist as usual when taking anticoagulant or antiplatelet medication.

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 anticoagulant or antiplatelet medication you are taking.
 - If you are taking warfarin, show your dentist your INR record.
- Tell your 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 your dentist about any medical conditions that you have, including kidney, liver or blood conditions, or cancer.
 - These conditions can cause you to bleed more.

This information will help your dentist plan the most suitable treatment for you. Your dentist may need to contact your doctor for more information.

Do not alter your anticoagulant or antiplatelet medication for dental treatment unless told to by your doctor, specialist or dentist.

What will my dentist do?



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

Your dentist can take other steps to reduce any bleeding that takes place during or after 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.
- If you are taking a DOAC, for some procedures that can cause more bleeding, your dentist may advise you to delay or miss taking your DOAC on the morning of your dental treatment. Your dentist will tell you when to take the next dose after the treatment.
- If you are taking warfarin, your dentist will need to see the results of your recent INR tests. They may ask you to have a test near the time of your dental treatment.
- Your dentist might 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 before and after your treatment and who to contact about post-treatment bleeding.
