

ANTICOAGULANT MEDICATIONS

— *PRE-OP & POST-OP INFORMATION*





WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE YOUR SURGERY

If you are currently taking an anticoagulant medication such as Coumadin or Warfarin, you will need an INR test prior to your surgery. This test will need to be done the same day as your surgery. You have the option to have your INR test taken at your usual lab or we can test your INR here at our office. If you are having your INR read by a lab outside our office, please make sure that they fax or email the results to us prior to your appointment. We will need to retake your INR if your test was not done within a few hours prior to your surgery.

Please have your preferred lab fax or email your INR test results to 406.587.2120 or office@brianchisdakmd.com

HOW DO MY ANTICOAGULANT MEDICATIONS AFFECT MY SURGERY?

Patients who are taking anticoagulant medications (blood thinners) can expect to have longer bleeding times than other patients. Typically, we don't recommend stopping blood thinners due to the risks, instead we accept that we will have longer bleeding times with these patients. There are several aspects to getting the bleeding stopped in a reasonable period of time. When appropriate, we will use products during the surgery that encourage clotting. Gauze is also a key factor in stopping bleeding. It's important to bite firmly and not talk while biting on the gauze or you will disrupt the blood clot that is trying to form. Also, leave the gauze in for 20-30 minutes before checking it. Frequent checks will continue to irritate the clots trying to form. When the gauze is checked after 20-30 minutes it should look like it was dipped in red Kool-aid. At that point, it is time to stop using gauze. If after 20 minutes the gauze looks like it was dipped in dark red wine and/or has chunks of liver colored blood clots, place another folded gauze piece over the surgical area, bite firmly and check again in 20-30 minutes.

Periodic blood-tinged saliva (pink) is normal and is nothing to worry about over the next week. This type of light bleeding does not require gauze.

If you are still requiring gauze at 8 p.m. call the office right away. 406.587.0767 OR TOLL-FREE 1.888.587.0768