

Cardiovascular Surgery

Managing Medications Before Surgery



During your preparation for surgery, your surgical team will instruct you to alter your normal medication routine. Use this chart as a guide. If you have additional questions or concerns prior to your surgery, please contact our office at (941) 917-8791.

Name or Description of Medication	STOP	TAKE
Antianginals (anti-chest pain) - Beta Blockers (ex: metoprolol) - Calcium Channel Blockers (ex: diltiazem, Cardizem)		Take beta blockers & calcium channel blockers the morning of surgery with a SMALL sip of water
Hypertension (High Blood Pressure) Medication: - Beta Blockers (ex: metoprolol) - Calcium Channel Blockers (ex: diltiazem, Cardizem) - Angiotensin-converting-enzyme "ACEs" (ex: lisinopril) - Angiotensin-receptor-blockers "ARBs" (ex: losartan)	Do NOT take ACEs or ARBs for 2 days/48hrs before surgery	Take beta blockers & calcium channel blockers the morning of surgery with a SMALL sip of water
Digoxin (if used for rate control in Afib)		Take the morning of surgery with a SMALL sip of water
Anticoagulants		
- Aspirin 81 mg		You can take 81mg Aspirin the morning of surgery with a SMALL sip of water
- Plavix or Clopidogrel (if NO RECENT STENT)	Stop 5-7 days BEFORE surgery	
- Plavix or Clopidogrel if bare metal stent in past month or drug eluting stent in past year	Stop 3 days BEFORE surgery	
- Warfarin or Coumadin	Stop 4-5 days BEFORE surgery	
Insulin/Oral Diabetes Medications	Stop the day before surgery; Do NOT take the morning of surgery	
Statins (ex: atorvastatin)		Take the morning of surgery with a SMALL sip of water

Source: Manual of Perioperative Care in Adult Cardiac Surgery, 5th Edition, Robert M. Bojar.