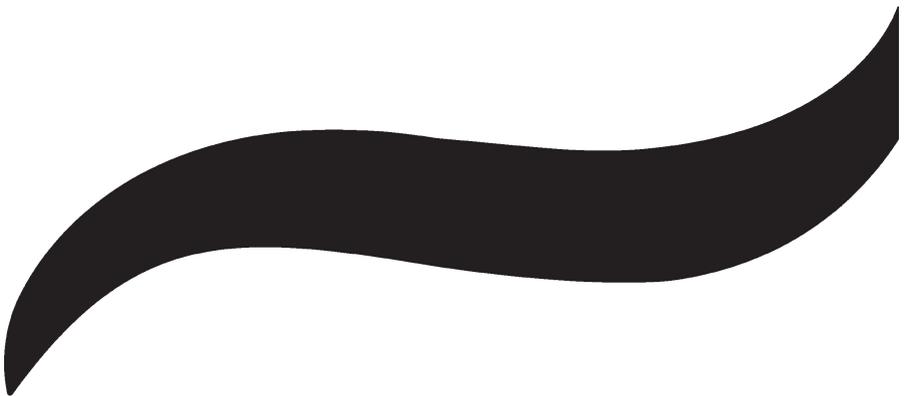




Antiplatelet agents

Information for patients
Anaesthetics Department



WHAT ARE ANTI-PLATELET AGENTS?

Antiplatelets are a type of blood thinner that increase risk of bleeding during an operation.

These drugs are usually prescribed by stroke and heart specialists. The drugs are used to reduce the risk of strokes, mini strokes and heart attacks.

DO I TAKE AN ANTI-PLATELET AGENT?

Some of the antiplatelet drugs include:

- ❖ Aspirin
- ❖ Clopidogrel (sold under the trade name Plavix among others)
- ❖ Dipyridamole (trade name Persantin and others)
- ❖ Ticagrelor (trade name Brilinta, Brilique, and Possia)
- ❖ Prasugrel (trade name Efient in the EU)

HOW WILL I KNOW IF I NEED TO STOP IT?

The pre-assessment team will give you information closer to the time of your surgery about when you have to stop this drug. It is important you follow this advice.

ARE THERE ANY RISKS IF I STOP THE MEDICATION?

You should be aware that there are small, but important risks in stopping these types of drugs.

We have prepared a video detailing these risks at the following link <http://vimeo.com/showcase/6986298> and using the password NHS2020.

A summary of the risks is given below (based on the best evidence available):

- ❖ Stopping aspirin ~ 3 in 1000 chance
- ❖ Stopping clopidogrel ~ 5 in 1000 chance
- ❖ Other agents are likely to be somewhere in between the two risks. I.e. 3-5 in 1000 chance

We are more than happy to discuss these risks with you, should you wish to think further on this please contact your surgical team if you require further information.

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