

Atrial fibrillation Center
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Temporary holding of anticoagulant (blood thinner) Risk of stroke with Atrial Fibrillation

Patients with Atrial Fibrillation have an erratic heartbeat that can cause blood to pool in the left upper chamber (atria) of the heart. This pooled blood can form a blood clot. If this blood clot dislodges, it can cause a stroke.

One of the most important roles of the Atrial Fibrillation Center is to reduce your risk of stroke. To reduce this risk, we often prescribe an anticoagulant (blood thinner) which keeps blood clots from forming. It is important to take this medication as prescribed and to not miss any doses.

However, your anticoagulant (blood thinner) may need to be temporarily stopped for a procedure or surgery.

If you are on Eliquis (Apixaban), Xarelto (Rivaroxaban), Pradaxa (Dabigatram):

- The doctor performing your procedure or surgery will determine the amount of days your anticoagulant (blood thinner) will be held. This will be determined by the amount of bleeding that is to be expected with the procedure or surgery.
- In most cases holding your anticoagulant (blood thinner) for more than 2 days prior to the procedure or surgery is not necessary
- The doctor performing your procedure or surgery will also determine the amount of days your anticoagulant (blood thinner) will be held following your procedure or surgery.

If you are on Coumadin:

- The prescribing provider of your Coumadin (primary care or cardiology) will instruct you on how to adjust your medication accordingly.