

EDUCATION FOR PATIENTS ON BLOOD THINNERS

As discussed prior to your procedure, risks related to any surgical procedure are possible despite the best of care. The most common risk associated with the use of blood thinners and dental treatment is bleeding. When taking blood thinners, it is very important to be aware of this risk, especially following dental treatment.

What are Blood Thinners?

Blood thinners are medicines that make it harder for blood clot(s) to form. They are used to either keep harmful blood clots from forming in the body or prevent existing blood clots from getting bigger. The two most common types of blood thinners are anticoagulants (e.g. Warfarin, Heparin, Lovenox, etc.) and antiplatelets (e.g. Aspirin, Plavix, etc.).

Dental Treatment and Blood Thinners

Blood thinners can interact with medicines and treatment provided by your doctor. Prior to your dental treatment, your doctor may request you provide him/her with up-to-date laboratory results and a list of all of the medications you are currently taking to help provide guidance on how best to proceed with your recommended treatment. Having additional health problems (e.g. liver/kidney problems) can also affect your bleeding potential, so those should be shared with your doctor as well. During the procedure, your doctor will ensure he/she takes necessary measures to achieve hemostasis (“stopping bleeding”) prior to you leaving the office. To ensure your doctor is able to provide you the best and safest care, it is important you keep your doctor up-to-date with any changes made to your blood thinner regimen, including changes in dose(s) and/or discontinuation of the medication(s).

After the Dental Treatment

Bleeding after invasive dental treatment is not uncommon. However, because you are on blood thinners it is very important that you closely monitor any post-operative bleeding you may experience. Your doctor will not be with you after you leave the office, so you should inform him/her immediately of any bleeding that does not stop, is very heavy or abnormal for you. Call the offices EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER: _____, but if you are unable to reach anyone, call 911 and go to the nearest emergency room.

It is our hope that this addresses some of the concerns or questions you may have about dental treatment and blood thinners. If you have any additional questions or concerns at all, please feel free to ask your doctor.

My signature below acknowledges I have read and understand the information provided to me and my questions have been answered.

Patient's (or Legal Guardian's) Signature

Date

Print Patient's (or Legal Guardian's) Name/Relationship

Date