

Medications After Surgery

Prescription Medications

The nursing staff can provide you guidance about resuming your medications after surgery. Here are some additional recommendations:

Insulin or Pills for Diabetes

Diabetic patients are advised to check with the physician that manages their diabetes if they are uncertain how to resume taking their medications for blood sugar after surgery.

Blood Thinners

Patients taking Coumadin, Lovenox, Arixtra, Heparin or any medication prescribed to prevent blood clots should have clear instructions how to take the medi-

cation, how long to take the medication and when to contact their physician. If you notice blood in your bowel movements or urine or are having frequent bloody noses, contact your surgeon right away.

Blood Pressure and Heart Medications

Patients should resume their medications for blood pressure or heart disease unless told otherwise by their cardiologist or physician.

Pain Medications

You may be prescribed some type of pain medication to take at home after your surgery. It is very important to take these medications only as directed.

Types of Pain Medication

Opioids

(Norco, Vicodin, Percocet)

These medications are for severe pain and only to be used as directed. Many patients worry about addiction to these types of medications but addiction is unlikely in patients who have never had a medication addiction problem.

Anti-Inflammatories

(Celebrex, Naproxen, Advil, Aleve, Toradol)

These medications can be used to manage moderate postoperative discomfort. They are only to be used if directed by your surgeon. These medications can cause bleeding problems and stomach irritation, as well as constipation.

Vitamins/Supplements

You may take your vitamins and other herbal type supplements after surgery unless your surgeon instructs you otherwise.

If you are not sure about medications after surgery, please call your physician.

