Preparation for angiogram,

*by Patrik Tosenovsky, MD, PhD*

1. Patients are fasted from midnight before surgery if they are scheduled in the morning or they can have early (<6:00 am) light breakfast if their procedure is going to be after 12:00 pm. Patients are encouraged to drink clear fluids up to 3 hours before procedure (only water).
2. Patients take their normal medication in the morning as usually. Aspirin is also taken as usually.
3. Patients who take anticoagulation medications like warfarin (Coumadin), rivaroxaban, dabigatran, apixaban should discuss this with their specialist. If the patient takes Plavix and Aspirin after coronary intervention – patient needs to continue taking both without interruption.

If your specialist did not give you any specific instructions and you do take one of the above anticoagulants then follow these instructions:

Xarelto – stop taking xarelto 48 hours prior to open surgery and give yourself one injection of Clexane one day before surgery (1.5mg/kg/day) or you only stop xarelto 24 hours prior to endovascular surgery (angiogram, stent) without taking anything else.

Warfarin – stop taking warfarin day -5 (5 days before surgery), then day -2 have your blood tested for INR and if less than 2.0 INR start injecting Clexane 1.5 mg/kg/day once a day. The day -1 you take the last dose of Clexane and the day of surgery (day 0) you do not take any anticoagulation medication.

Dabigatran – stop dabigatran 5 days before open surgery (day -5) and start Clexane day -4 in dose 1.5 mg/kg/day once a day or stop dabigatran 2 days prior endovascular surgery (angiogram, stent) and give one dose of Clexane day -1. No Clexane or dabigatran day 0 (day of the surgery). The day -1 patient should have blood test (aPTT) and results should be discussed with the surgeon.

Apixaban – patient will stop apixaban 3 days before open surgery and starts injecting Clexane 1.5 mg/kg/day or stop 1 day before endovascular surgery and do not take any other anticoagulants.

1. Patient’s both groins should be shaved (ideally already to be done before admission by patient at home).
2. Patient brings to the hospital all the medication they take normally.
3. Patient makes sure there is a transport organized for them after procedure as they can’t drive for 12-24 hours afterwards.
4. If the patient might be pregnant – it must be told to the staff prior to the procedure!
5. All the blood tests performed by other physicians should be also made available to the specialist at the day of surgery.
6. Any questions can be answered even immediately before the procedure.
7. You can change your mind about your treatment at any time. We will understand. Don’t worry.