



Special Instructions for Patients

Patients with Diabetes

- Do not take any oral/pill-form diabetic medications on the day of your procedure.
- If you take insulin:
 - Do not take any pre-meal (short-acting) insulin such as NovoLog, Humalog, or Regular on the day of your procedure.
 - If you take basal insulin such as Lantus or Levemir, take 80% of your usual dose on the day of your procedure.
 - If you take NPH insulin, take 50% of your usual dose on the day of your procedure.
- If you use a glucometer, check your blood sugar before leaving home, and give your results to a staff member at the Cardiovascular Laboratory Prep/Recovery Unit when you arrive.

Patients taking Coumadin® (Warfarin)

- If you take Coumadin® (Warfarin), stop taking it three days before your procedure, e.g. if your procedure is on a Thursday, your last dose should be the Sunday before.
- Your doctor will inform you if you should stop for more or fewer doses.
- Your doctor will advise you if there are special circumstances and you should take another anticoagulant medication while stopping your Coumadin® (Warfarin).

Patients taking Pradaxa (Dabigatran)

- If you take Pradaxa (Dabigatran), your doctor will advise you when to stop it prior to your procedure. If your doctor does not give you instructions, you will need to contact his/her office to clarify.
- In general, if your GFR (a measure of Kidney Function) is greater than 50, you should not take any Pradaxa the day before or day of the procedure. If

your GFR is 50 or less, you should not take any Pradaxa for two days prior to the day of your procedure.

- Your doctor will advise you if there are special instructions and you should take another anticoagulant medication while stopping your Pradaxa (Dabigatran)

Patients who are allergic to contrast dye

- You should take 60 mg of prednisone the night before and the morning of your procedure. Your doctor will give you a prescription for this.
- You may receive additional medications when you arrive at the Prep/Recovery Unit.

Patients with decreased kidney function

- It is important for all patients, but especially those with decreased kidney function, to be well hydrated before and after their procedure. Please follow the instructions outlined in “What You Should Know Before Your Cardiovascular Procedure” regarding hydration before and after your procedure.
- Your doctor may give you a prescription for the medication Acetylcysteine (Mucomyst). You should take 2 doses the day before your procedure, 1 dose the morning of your procedure and 1 dose in the evening on the day of your procedure. If your pharmacy is unable to supply this medication prior to your procedure, you can be given a dose on your arrival sufficient to treat you.