

Warfarin and Other Medication

Many people with Atrial Fibrillation may find that Warfarin therapy is recommended to thin the blood and reduce their risk of stroke.

Warfarin is a very effective medication however it does require regular monitoring to assess how thin it makes the blood. It works by interfering with how the liver uses the Vitamin K taken in our diet. Many other medications are also broken down by the liver and may affect how effectively Warfarin thins the blood. This can increase the effect of Warfarin and thus require a lower dose to be taken or it may decrease the effect of Warfarin requiring a higher dose needing to be taken.

Being on both Warfarin and medications that will effect it's actions is not a problem when taken in the long term, however when such drugs are started or their dose changed then increased monitoring of the INR is required.

Medications that **increase** the effects of Warfarin include:

- **Amiodarone** Heart rhythm medication
- **Aspirin** Pain killer
- **Allopurinol** Used in Gout
- **Ampicillin** Antibiotic
- **Atorvastatin** Cholesterol medication
- **Celecoxib** Anti-inflammatory pain killer
- **Cefalexin** Antibiotic
- **Cefradine** Antibiotic
- **Celexa** Anti-depressant
- **Cimetidine** Indigestion and stomach ulcer healing medication
- **Ciprofloxacin** Antibiotic
- **Clarithromycin** Antibiotic
- **Clopidogrel** Anti-platelet medication
- **Cranberry Juice** Drink

- **Dexamethasone** Oral Steroid medication (at high dose only)
- **Diclofenac** Anti-inflammatory pain killer
- **Dipyridamole** Anti-platelet medication
- **Disulfiram** Used in Alcohol misuse therapy
- **Entacapone** Used in Parkinson's disease
- **Erythromycin** Antibiotic
- **Fluconazole** As oral anti-fungal medication
- **Flutamide** Used in prostate cancer
- **Fluoxetine** Anti-depressant
- **Glucosamine** Health supplement for joint pain
- **Ibuprofen** Anti-inflammatory pain killer
- **Itraconazole** As oral anti-fungal medication
- **Ketoconazole** As oral anti-fungal medication
- **Levothyroxine** Thyroid replacement hormone
- **Lodine** Anti-inflammatory pain killer
- **Meloxicam** Anti-inflammatory pain killer
- **Metronidazole** Antibiotic
- **Miconazole** As oral or topical anti-fungal medication
- **Neomycin** Antibiotic
- **Nexium** Indigestion and stomach ulcer healing medication
- **Norfloxacin** Antibiotic
- **Omeprazole** Indigestion and stomach ulcer healing medication
- **Orlistat** Anti-obesity medication
- **Oxytetracycline** Antibiotic
- **Piroxicam** Anti-inflammatory pain killer
- **Pantoprazole** Indigestion and stomach ulcer healing medication
- **Paroxetine** Anti-depressant
- **Ponstel** Anti-inflammatory pain killer and used for period pain
- **Prednisolone** Oral Steroid medication (at high dose only)
- **Proguanil** Malaria treatment and prophylaxis



Atrial Fibrillation Association
 PO Box 5507
 Hilton Head Island
 SC 29938
 Telephone: (843) 785 4101
 Website: www.afa-us.org
 Email: info@afa-us.org

- Remeron Anti-depressant
- Rosuvastatin Cholesterol medication
- Sertraline Anti-depressant
- Sibutramine Anti-obesity medication
- Simvastatin Cholesterol medication
- Sodium Valproate Anti-epileptic medication
- Sulfinpyrazone Gout medication
- Tamoxifen Used in breast cancer
- Tetracycline Antibiotic
- Testosterone Male hormone supplement
- Tramadol Pain Killer
- Trimethoprim Antibiotic
- Venlafaxine Effexor Anti-depressant
- Zetia Cholesterol medication

Medications that **decrease** the effect of Warfarin include:

- Barbiturates Sedative medication
- Bosentan
- Carbamazepine Anti-epileptic medication
- Griseofulvin As an oral anti-fungal medication
- Phenytoin Anti-epileptic medication
- Primidone Anti-epileptic medication
- Rifampicin Antibiotic
- St John's Wort Anti-depressant (use with Warfarin is not recommended)
- Sucralfate Indigestion and stomach ulcer healing medication
- Vitamin K Vitamin supplement

Warfarin and Other Medication - Patient Information

THIS LIST IS NOT INTENDED TO BE COMPREHENSIVE BUT HELPFUL AS A GUIDE

Authors: Dr Matthew Fay
 Peter Spector, MD
 Endorsed by: Hugh Calkins, MD
 Kalyanam Shivkumar, MD PhD



For further information contact Atrial Fibrillation Association
 Trustees: Professor A John Camm, Professor Richard Schilling,
 Mrs Jayne Mudd, Arrhythmia Nurse
 Non-profit organization 501(C)(3) © AFA 2011

