

## Maxillofacial Unit

# Direct Oral Coagulants (DOACs) and Oral Surgery

### What are Direct Oral Anticoagulants (DOACs)?

Direct oral anticoagulants are a type of medication that are designed to thin your blood. These include:

- Apixaban (Eliquis)
- Dabigatran (Pradaxa)
- Rivaroxaban (Xarelto)
- Edoxaban (Lixiana)

### How do they work?

These medicines aim to reduce harmful blood clots from developing in your blood vessels. By thinning the blood, this makes you bleed more easily and for longer. It is therefore important that you inform your doctor or dentist especially before undergoing procedures that normally cause bleeding e.g. dental extractions.

### What do I need to do?

For some surgical procedures involving your mouth and face, your doctor may advise you to miss or delay taking your DOAC medication on the morning of your procedure. You will be informed as to when to take the next dose.

Examples of types of treatment included in this are oral or facial biopsies, surgical extraction of teeth or removal of multiple teeth.

For all skin cancer surgeries advice on your DOAC medication will be given on an individual basis by the operating surgeon.

If advised to miss your morning dose, it is important that you do so. Otherwise we may not be able to perform your procedure, which will mean delaying treatment.

## What will my Oral surgeon do?

They may wish to stage your treatment over a period of visits.

If you are having a tooth or multiple teeth removed, a temporary (dissolving) dressing may be placed in the extraction site and the area stitched to help stop bleeding.

If you are having a lesion biopsied or removed from your mouth or face, it will either be cauterised or stitches will be placed. You will be informed if the stitches need to be removed or if they are dissolving.

Once the procedure has been undertaken you will be examined to ensure any bleeding has stopped before going home.

**The box below is for your doctor to fill out with instructions as to what you need to do before surgical treatment of your mouth or face.**

<b>Your medication</b>	
<b>Your current regime</b>	
<b>Instructions before surgery</b>	
<b>Instructions after surgery</b>	

In the unlikely event of any complications with bleeding after the procedure, you will be given instructions on how to contact the department for advice.

**Ref:** Scottish Dental Clinical Effectiveness Programme - Quick Reference guide (Management of Dental Patients Taking Anticoagulants or Antiplatelet Drugs)

[http://www.sdcep.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/SDCEP-](http://www.sdcep.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/SDCEP-Anticoagulants-Quick-Reference-Guide.pdf)

[Anticoagulants-Quick-Reference-Guide.pdf](http://www.sdcep.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/SDCEP-Anticoagulants-Quick-Reference-Guide.pdf)

This leaflet is specific to the practice of Oral and Maxillo-Facial Surgery in the United Kingdom and is in addition to the generic guidance given in the GMC publications of Good Medical and Surgical Practice 2001 & 2002.

**If you have any comments about this leaflet or the service you have received you can contact :**

Maxillofacial Unit  
Huddersfield Royal Infirmary

Telephone (01484) 355737

[www.cht.nhs.uk](http://www.cht.nhs.uk)

**If you would like this information in another format or language contact the above.**

Potřebujete-li tyto informace v jiném formátu nebo jazyce,  
obraťte se prosím na výše uvedené oddělení

Jeżeli są Państwo zainteresowani otrzymaniem tych  
informacji w innym formacie lub wersji językowej,  
prosimy skontaktować się z nami, korzystając z ww.  
danych kontaktowych

ਚ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਪ੍ਰਾਚੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਲੈਣਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ,  
ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਵਿਭਾਗ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور فارمیٹ یا زبان میں درکار ہوں، تو  
برائے مہربانی مندرجہ بالا شعبے میں ہم سے رابطہ کریں۔

"إذا احتجت الحصول على هذه المعلومة بشكل مغاير أو مترجمة إلى لغة مختلفة فيرجى منك الاتصال بالقسم  
المذكور أعلاه"