

## Do Not Forget the Medication Experts



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We would like to congratulate Hornor and colleagues<sup>1</sup> on their comprehensive review and guidance of antithrombotic medication use in the perioperative setting. The authors summarize and formulate pharmacotherapeutic recommendations for holding therapy, bridging anticoagulation, and implementing emergent reversal strategies. These guidelines pay heed to clinically important pharmacokinetic alterations, such as changes in a patient's renal function, and provide useful scoring tools to appropriately weigh a patient's bleed or thrombotic risk.

Despite this inclusive guideline, a notable omission is the opportunity for multidisciplinary care, and specifically, the role played by a clinical pharmacist. The emergence of the critical care-trained pharmacist in the emergency department, perioperative area, and the surgical ICU has allowed for their unique knowledge and pharmacotherapeutic insight to span the continuity of care for a surgical patient. From the initial steps of obtaining an accurate medication history, to alterations in a patient's anticoagulation plan, such as hold, bridge, reverse, or resume, altering along the transitions of care, a team of clinical pharmacists provides needed complement to the surgical plan. Postoperatively, changes in the surgical

patients' oral absorption or anatomy may have significant effects on the bioavailability of both direct oral anticoagulants and vitamin-k antagonists (warfarin). Considerations for dose, timing, formulation, and indication are valuable interventions provided by a clinical pharmacist.

At our institution and countless others, clinical pharmacists have played a key role in designing periprocedural bridging and emergent reversal protocols. Nationally, the implementation of Anticoagulation Stewardship Programs involving pharmacists have been shown to reduce cost and improve clinical outcomes with numerous metrics, including appropriateness and timely use of emergent reversal agents.<sup>2,3</sup>

We humbly encourage the implementation and recognition of clinical pharmacists in the care of perioperatively anticoagulated patients.

### REFERENCES

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