

Bridging Tinzaparin (for patients on Warfarin)

This leaflet is for patients who are on the blood-thinning drug Warfarin who are undergoing surgery.

Before surgery

Patients who take Warfarin are usually asked to stop taking it 4 days before their operation. The pre-operative assessment nurse will advise you if you need to do this. Many patients will need to give themselves Tinzaparin injections for 2 days before surgery and for up to 5 days following surgery. If you need this it will be prescribed in the pre-operative assessment clinic and the nurse will explain the injection technique to you. You will be provided with an 'injection pack' in the pre-operative assessment clinic which contains information on how to administer the injections as well as a sharps box for safe disposal of used syringes. On the 2 days before your operation you should inject the tinzaparin in the morning but do not inject Tinzaparin on the morning of your surgery.

On the day of surgery

Please bring your injections with you on the day of surgery. The nurses on ADSU may check your INR on the morning of admission.

Following surgery you will restart Warfarin that night (usually at 10pm). You will also need to continue to administer Tinzaparin injections (usually at 8pm), until your INR reaches your normal therapeutic level (this usually takes 3 to 5 days). The dose of Tinzaparin will be the same as the dose given before surgery.

The nurses will advise you on how to restart your Warfarin, and when your next INR test is due, before you leave ADSU.

After surgery

You should have your INR checked in the usual way between 3 and 5 days following surgery. If your INR is at your normal therapeutic level, you can stop the Tinzaparin.

Any questions?

If there is anything you don't understand, please telephone the pre-operative assessment clinic on 0118 322 6546 and speak to one of our nurses.