

Warfarin and other medication

This information sheet is intended to help those affected by atrial fibrillation (also referred to as AFib or AF) understand warfarin and the effects other medications may have on the effectiveness of this therapy.

Warfarin (also known as Coumadin or Jantoven in the US) is a medication which inhibits the blood clotting process, thereby reducing the risk of an AFib-related stroke.

People on warfarin are required to have regular blood tests to check for International Normalized Ratio (INR), a measure of the blood's clotting capability. Warfarin 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 they may affect how effectively warfarin thins the blood. Certain medications can increase the effect of warfarin and thus a lower dose may need to be taken, while others decrease the effect of warfarin so a higher dose may need to be taken.

People taking warfarin together with long-term medications may need increased monitoring of their INR when medications are started or doses are adjusted, so that the right dose of warfarin is given and the blood remains within the correct INR range.

Medications that increase the effects of warfarin include:

- **Amiodarone** heart rhythm medication
- **Aspirin** painkiller
- **Allopurinol** used in gout
- **Ampicillin** antibiotic
- **Atorvastatin** cholesterol medication
- **Celecoxib** Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) painkiller
- **Cephalexin** antibiotic

- **Cimetidine** used in indigestion and stomach ulcers
- **Citalopram** antidepressant
- **Ciprofloxacin** antibiotic
- **Clarithromycin** antibiotic
- **Clopidogrel** antiplatelet medication
- **Dexamethasone** oral steroid medication (at high dose only)
- **Diclofenac** NSAID painkiller
- **Dipyridamole** antiplatelet medication
- **Disulfiram** used in alcohol misuse therapy
- **Entacapone** used in Parkinson's disease
- **Erythromycin** antibiotic
- **Esomeprazole** indigestion and stomach ulcer healing medication
- **Etodolac** NSAID painkiller
- **Ezetimibe** cholesterol medication
- **Fluconazole** oral antifungal medication
- **Flutamide** used in prostate cancer
- **Fluoxetine** antidepressant
- **Glucosamine** health supplement for joint pain
- **Ibuprofen** NSAID painkiller
- **Itraconazole** oral antifungal medication
- **Ketoconazole** oral antifungal medication
- **Levothyroxine** thyroid replacement hormone
- **Mefenamic acid** NSAID painkiller and used for period pain
- **Meloxicam** NSAID painkiller
- **Metronidazole** antibiotic
- **Miconazole** oral or topical anti-fungal medication



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- **Mirtazepine** antidepressant
- **Neomycin** antibiotic
- **Norfloxacin** antibiotic
- **Omeprazole** used for indigestion and stomach ulcers
- **Orlistat** anti-obesity medication
- **Oxytetracycline** antibiotic
- **Piroxicam** NSAID painkiller
- **Pantoprazole** used for indigestion and stomach ulcer
- **Paroxetine** antidepressant
- **Prednisolone** oral steroid medication (at high dose only)
- **Proguanil** malaria treatment and prophylaxis
- **Rosuvastatin** cholesterol medication
- **Sertraline** antidepressant
- **Sibutramine** weight-loss medication
- **Simvastatin** cholesterol medication
- **Sitaxentan** used to treat pulmonary hypertension
- **Sodium valporate** anti-epileptic medication
- **Sulfinpyrazone** gout medication
- **Tamoxifen** used in breast cancer
- **Tetracycline** antibiotic
- **Testosterone** male hormone supplement
- **Tramadol** painkiller
- **Trimethoprim** antibiotic
- **Venlafaxine** antidepressant

Medications that decrease the effect of warfarin include:

- **Barbiturates** sedative medication
- **Bosentan** used to treat pulmonary hypertension
- **Carbamazepine** antiepileptic medication
- **Griseofulvin** oral antifungal medication
- **Phenytoin** antiepileptic medication
- **Primidone** antiepileptic medication
- **Rifampicin** antibiotic
- **St John's Wort** antidepressant (use with warfarin is not recommended)
- **Sucralfate** used for indigestion and stomach ulcer
- **Vitamin K** vitamin supplement

THIS LIST DOES NOT CONTAIN ALL OF THE DRUGS WHICH INTERACT WITH WARFARIN, AND IS INTENDED AS A GENERAL GUIDE.

If you are on warfarin and you are concerned about interactions with other drugs you are taking, or you are considering taking drugs, cold and flu medications or herbal remedies, you should seek advice from your primary care provider, an anticoagulation clinic, a pharmacist or a qualified healthcare professional.

To view our patient resources, scan the QR code below:



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