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PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

# Common Medications Containing Aspirin and Other Nonsteroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs)

This information will help you identify medications that contain aspirin and other NSAIDs. It's important to stop taking these medications before many cancer treatments.

Aspirin, other NSAIDs (such as ibuprofen), and vitamin E can increase your risk of bleeding during cancer treatment. These medications affect your platelets (blood cells that clot to prevent bleeding). Read the section “Examples of Medications” to see if your medications contain aspirin, other NSAIDs, or vitamin E.

If you take aspirin, medications that contain aspirin, other NSAIDs, or vitamin E, tell your healthcare provider. They will tell you if you need to stop taking the medication(s) before your treatment. You will also find instructions in the information about your treatment.

## Before Your Surgery

If you're having surgery, follow the instructions below. **If your**

**healthcare provider gives you other instructions, follow those instead.**

- Stop taking medications that contain vitamin E 10 days before your surgery or as directed by your healthcare provider.
- Stop taking medications that contain aspirin 7 days before your surgery or as directed by your healthcare provider. If you take aspirin because you've had a problem with your heart or you've had a stroke, talk with your healthcare provider before you stop taking it.
- Stop taking NSAIDs 48 hours (2 days) before your surgery or as directed by your healthcare provider.

## **Before Your Radiology Procedure**

If you're having a radiology procedure (including Interventional Radiology, Interventional Mammography, Breast Imaging, and General Radiology), follow the instructions below. **If your healthcare provider gives you other instructions, follow those instead.**

- Stop taking medications that contain vitamin E 10 days before your procedure or as directed by your healthcare provider.
- If your healthcare provider tells you to stop taking aspirin, stop taking it 5 days before your procedure or as directed by your healthcare provider. If you take aspirin because you've

had a problem with your heart or you've had a stroke, talk with your healthcare provider before you stop taking it.

- Stop taking NSAIDs 24 hours (1 day) before your procedure or as directed by your healthcare provider.

## Before and During Your Chemotherapy

Chemotherapy can lower your platelet count, which can increase your risk of bleeding. Whether you're just starting chemotherapy or have been getting it, talk with your healthcare provider before taking aspirin or NSAIDs.

## Examples of Medications

Medications are often called by their brand name. This can make it hard to know their ingredients. To help you identify medications that contain aspirin, other NSAIDs, and vitamin E, please read the lists below.

These lists include the most common products, but there are others. Check with your healthcare provider if you aren't sure. **Always be sure your healthcare provider knows all of the medications you're taking, both prescription and over-the-counter (not prescription).**

Common Medications Containing Aspirin			
Aggrenox <sup>®</sup>	Cama <sup>®</sup> Arthritis Pain Reliever	Heartline <sup>®</sup>	Robaxisal <sup>®</sup> Tablets
Alka Seltzer <sup>®</sup>	COPE <sup>®</sup>	Headrin <sup>®</sup>	Roxiprin <sup>®</sup>

Anacin®	Dasin®	Isollyl®	Saleto®
Arthritis Pain Formula	Easprin®	Lanorinal®	Salocol®
Arthritis Foundation Pain Reliever®	Ecotrin® (most formulations)	Lortab® ASA Tablets	Sodol®
ASA Enseals®	Empirin® Aspirin (most formulations)	Magnaprin®	Soma® Compound Tablets
ASA Suppositories®	Epromate®	Marnal®	Soma® Compound with Codeine Tablets
Ascriptin® and Ascriptin A/D®	Equagesic Tablets	Micrainin®	St. Joseph® Adult Chewable Aspirin
Aspergum®	Equazine®	Momentum®	Supac®
Asprimox®	Excedrin® Extra-Strength Analgesic Tablets and Caplets	Norgesic Forte® (most formulations)	Synalgos®-DC Capsules
Axotal®	Excedrin® Migraine	Norwich® Aspirin	Tenol-Plus®
Azdone®	Fiorgen®	PAC® Analgesic Tablets	Trigesic®
Bayer® (most formulations)	Fiorinal® (most formulations)	Orphengesic®	Talwin® Compound
BC® Powder and Cold	Fiortal®	Painaid®	Vanquish® Analgesic

formulations			Caplets
Bufferin® (most formulations)	Gelpirin®	Panasal®	Wesprin® Buffered
Buffets II®	Genprin®	Percodan® Tablets	Zee-Seltzer®
Buffex®	Gensan®	Persistin®	ZORprin®

### Common Medications That are NSAIDs That Don't Contain Aspirin

Advil®	Duexis®	Mefenamic Acid	PediaCare Fever®
Advil Migraine®	Etodolac®	Meloxicam	Piroxicam
Aleve®	Feldene®	Menadol®	Ponstel®
Anaprox DS®	Fenoprofen	Midol®	Relafen®
Ansaid®	Flurbiprofen	Mobic®	Saleto 200®
Arthrotec®	Genpril®	Motrin®	Sulindac
Bayer® Select Pain Relief Formula Caplets	Ibuprofen	Nabumetone	Toradol®
Celebrex®	Indomethacin	Nalfon®	Treximet®
Celecoxib	Indocin®	Naproxen	Vicoprofen®
Children's Motrin®	Ketoprofen	Naprosyn®	Vimovo®
Clinoril®	Ketorolac	Nuprin®	Voltaren®

Daypro®	Lodine®	Orudis®	
Diclofenac	Meclofenamate	Oxaprozin	

Products Containing Vitamin E			
Amino-Opt-E	Aquavit	E-400 IU	E complex-600
Aquasol E	D'alpha E	E-1000 IU Softgels	Vita-Plus E

Most multivitamins contain vitamin E. If you take a multivitamin, check the label.

## About Acetaminophen

Acetaminophen (Tylenol®) is generally safe to take during your cancer treatment. It doesn't affect platelets, so it won't increase your chance of bleeding. But, talk with your healthcare provider before taking acetaminophen if you're getting chemotherapy.

Medications Containing Acetaminophen			
Acephen®	Esgic®	Percocet®	Vanquish®
Aceta® with Codeine	Excedrin P.M.®	Primlev®	Vicodin®
Acetaminophen with Codeine	Fiorcet®	Repan®	Wygesic®
Aspirin-Free Anacin®	Lorcet®	Roxicet®	Xartemis XR®
Arthritis Pain Formula®	Lortab®	Talacen®	Xodol®

Aspirin-Free			
Datril®	Naldegescic®	Temptra®	Zydone®
Di-Gesic®	Norco®	Tylenol®	
Endocet®	Panadol®	Tylenol® with Codeine No. 3	

### Read the labels on all your medications

Acetaminophen is safe when used as directed. But, there’s a limit to how much you can take in 1 day. It’s possible to take too much acetaminophen without knowing because it’s in many different medications.

Always read and follow the label on the product you’re taking. Acetaminophen is a very common ingredient found in over-the-counter and prescription medications. It’s often an ingredient in pain relievers, fever reducers, sleep aids, and cough, cold, and allergy medications.

The full name acetaminophen isn’t always written out. Look for the common abbreviations listed below, especially on prescription pain relievers.

Common Abbreviations for Acetaminophen		
APAP	AC	Acetaminop
Acetamin	Acetam	Acetaminoph

Don’t take more than 1 medication that contains acetaminophen at a time without talking with a member of your healthcare team.

If you have any questions, contact a member of your healthcare team directly. If you're a patient at MSK and you need to reach a provider after 5:00 PM, during the weekend, or on a holiday, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit [www.mskcc.org/pe](http://www.mskcc.org/pe) to search our virtual library.

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