

WHEN DO YOU CANCEL THE PROCEDURE?

- 1) **Failure to discontinue drugs that lower the seizure threshold.** A list from the pharmacy is attached. These are the ones that we ask about and, for elective procedures, we will reschedule the examination if they have not been discontinued for 48 hours prior to the procedure, to be reinstated 24 hours following the procedure. (Please note: For transplant patients, we have not been requiring cessation of cyclosporine, for obvious reasons.)
- 2) **Failure to discontinue certain anticoagulants that increase the risk of hematoma.** For less common anticoagulants, please see the neuroradiology fine needle spine anticoagulation policy. Here are the requirements for the more common anticoagulants:

Aspirin and NSAIDS	Does NOT need to be stopped
Eptifibatide (Integrilin)	4-8 hours
Tirofiban (Aggrastat)	8 hours
Heparin – Prophylactic	Check platelets if on >5 days*
Heparin – Therapeutic	2-4 hours and normal PTT. Check platelets if on >5 days.*
LMW Heparin – Prophylactic	12 hours*
LMW Heparin – Therapeutic	24 hours*
Fondaparinux (Arixtra)	Withhold based on Creatinine*
Pletal	48 hours
Persantine	48 hours
Ticlopidine (Ticlid)	14 days
Plavix	5 days
Thrombolytics (tPa, etc)	Unsafe, do not do procedure
Warfarin	Based on INR

- 3) **Patient has other appointments immediately following the procedure or other “engagements” and cannot wait the required 4 hours.** It has been our practice to observe all outpatients for 4 hours following the procedure. Some patients are not told of this at the time of the procedure is scheduled and they arrive with the expectation that they will be “done” in 1-2 hours. Many times this includes various clinic appointments in an attempt to “bunch” everything together into one hospital visit. Please be certain your patients are not scheduled in your clinics or have no other clinic visits scheduled that day until at least 5 hours after their scheduled myelogram appointment time.
- 4) **Patient does not have an “accompanying person”.** It has been the policy that all patients must have someone to drive them home following the procedure. This is especially true for patients who travel a long distance to UIHC as we do not want them to get into trouble attempting to drive themselves (post-spinal headache, seizure, etc.). Patients need to be informed of this at the time their procedures are scheduled.

* See UIHC Neuroradiology Fine Needle Spinal and Anticoagulation document for further clarification.
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