

MEDICATION CHANGES AROUND BARIATRIC SURGERY*

Medication Type	Before Surgery	After Surgery
Blood Pressure/Heart Toprol, Lopressor, Losartan, Lisinopril, Altace, etc.	DO take your blood pressure and heart meds on the usual schedule. The only exception is lisinopril and similar "-pril" meds – please leave off the last dose prior to surgery.	Almost always, resume blood pressure meds after surgery. After several months of weight loss it may be practical to reduce or eliminate blood pressure meds; we like to involve your prescribing doctor in this decision.
Diuretics Lasix, HCTZ	Do not take the day of surgery.	Usually no longer needed after surgery.
Cholesterol/Lipids Lipitor, Crestor, etc.	Do not take the day of surgery.	Usually do not take this type of med for the first several months after surgery. We will recheck your cholesterol levels in 6 months.
Diabetes – oral meds Glyburide, Avandia, Januvia, Metformin, etc.	Metformin may cross-react with anesthesia, so the last dose should be 3 days prior to surgery. Other oral meds – do not take the last dose before surgery.	Diabetic meds often can be stopped or reduced after surgery. Your surgeon will give you specific instructions.
Diabetes – injections Insulin, Victoza, etc.	Your surgeon will give you specific instructions.	Often, diabetic meds can be stopped or reduced after surgery. Your surgeon will give you specific instructions.
Blood Thinners Aspirin, Coumadin, Xarelto, Plavix, Lovenox, etc.	Usually stop 1 week before surgery. Your surgeon will give you specific instructions.	Aspirin is very likely to cause bleeding ulcers, so it should not be taken after surgery. Other blood thinners are usually okay, but should be discussed with your surgeon.
Birth Control / Other Hormones	Stop birth control and other hormone meds 2 weeks before surgery due to a slight increase in the risk of blood clots.	Okay to resume these meds one month after surgery.
Reflux/Heartburn Nexium, Zantac, etc.	It is okay take these meds on your usual schedule leading into surgery.	Take this type of medicine as needed after surgery.
Steroids Prednisone, Flonase, Advair, Pulmicort, etc.	Steroid pills such as prednisone should be stopped 2 months prior to surgery. If this is medically impractical, please discuss with your surgeon. Inhaled steroid and injected steroids (joint injections) are okay.	May resume after surgery.
Asthma, Sinus Meds	Do not take the day of surgery.	Resume on normal schedule after surgery.

Psychiatric
Prozac, Seroquel,
Wellbutrin, etc.

Take these on normal schedule leading into surgery.

Resume on normal schedule after surgery. (If any of your meds need to have the levels monitored (Lithium, Depakote, etc.) please plan more frequent monitoring for proper levels during the first 3 months after surgery.)

Immune/Arthritis
Humira, Enbrel, etc.

Stop 1 month prior to surgery. These meds may interfere with healing or with normal immune function.

Resume on normal schedule after surgery.

Thyroid Replacements

Take these on normal schedule leading into surgery.

Resume on normal schedule after surgery.

Pain Meds - Prescribed
Opioid/Narcotic Meds
Such As Norco, Percocet,
Morphine, etc.

There's no major conflict with surgery or anesthesia, but patients who take this type of med regularly often have a hard time with pain control around surgery. Please make a plan with your pain doc and your surgeon before surgery is scheduled.

Resume according to your particular plan.

Pain Meds – OTC
NSAIDs such as
Ibuprofen (Motrin, Aleve,
Advil), Naprosyn,
Voltaren, Mobic, etc.

Stop 3 days before surgery. Like aspirin, meds in this group thin the blood.

Like aspirin, these meds are likely to cause bleeding ulcers after surgery so they should almost never be taken. Tylenol is not in this group, and Tylenol is okay. Celebrex is a prescription med that is okay for joint pain, headache, etc.

Bariatric Supplements

Do not take the day of surgery.

Do not take these during first week at home. Resume when instructed at follow up class.

Other Vitamins & Herbal Remedies

Stop 2 weeks before surgery.

Discuss with our team if you need these after surgery.

*This table is a general guide, but you should receive particular instructions from your surgeon at your pre-op appointment. Please discuss any questions with your surgeon. When you're released from the hospital after surgery, you'll receive a complete, detailed list about your medication instructions for home use.

The great news is that surgery is likely to eliminate many of your prescription medications because you won't need them anymore. If there are medications that you still need, we can reassure you that prescription medications work in a completely normal way after surgery.