

Anticoagulant Tip Card

Risk Factors

Bleeding

- Anticoagulant, antiplatelet, or thrombolytic medications
- Use of more than one antithrombotic at the same time
- History of GI bleed or stroke
- Use of Amiodarone, antibiotics, or NSAIDS while on anticoagulants
- When taking Warfarin, avoiding consuming a diet high in Vitamin K (examples: spinach, kale, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, parsley, and green tea. Vitamin K can counteract the blood-thinning effects of Warfarin)

Thromboembolism

- Use of anticoagulants
- Prolonged immobility
- Recent surgery
- History of thromboembolism
- PT/INR consistently below target/therapeutic range



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Signs and Symptoms

Bleeding

- Elevated PT/INR, PTT
- Low platelet count
- Bruising
- Nosebleeds, bleeding gums
- Prolonged/abnormal bleeding from wound, IV, or surgical sites
- Coughing up blood, blood in urine, feces, or vomit
- Sudden onset of abnormally low blood pressure

Thromboembolism

- Swelling, redness, warmth, pain, and tenderness of upper or lower extremity
- Chest pain, rapid heart rate
- Shortness of breath, rapid breathing
- Lightheadedness, loss of consciousness
- Sweating, clamminess, feelings of anxiety or dread
- Coughing up blood



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Clinical Interventions

Assessing for occurrence of an Adverse Drug Event (based upon provider direction)

- STAT lab orders for PT/INR, PTT, Platelet count, CBC
- Immediate stop order for anticoagulant medications
- Vitamin K administration
- STAT chest x-ray
- Transfer to emergency room if provider deems necessary



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