



Japan Council for Quality Health Care

Project to Collect Medical Near-Miss/  
Adverse Event Information

## Medical Safety Information

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# Forgetting to Resume Anticoagulants/Antiplatelet Drugs

Four cases have been reported in which medical staff forgot to resume an anticoagulant or antiplatelet drug that had been stopped so that the patient could undergo an invasive procedure (information collection period: from January 1, 2012 to March 31, 2016). The information is compiled based on "Individual Theme Review" (p.135) in the 34th Quarterly Report.

**Cases of medical staff forgetting to resume an anticoagulant or antiplatelet drug that had been stopped so that the patient could undergo an invasive procedure, leading to an impact on the patient, have been reported.**

Main Efficacy	Drug Name	Timing of Discovery of Failure to Resume	Background
Anticoagulant	Warfarin	17 days after an invasive procedure	Resumption of the anticoagulant was not considered, even after sufficient time had elapsed.
	Warfarin	10 days after an invasive procedure	The physician ordered "resumption of all drugs," but only the oral medications that the patient had been taking immediately before surgery were resumed, while the Warfarin that the patient had stopped prior to that was not resumed.
	Prazaxa Capsules	14 days after canceling an invasive procedure	The renal biopsy was canceled, but the physician forgot to resume the Prazaxa Capsules that had been halted.
Antiplatelet drug	Bayaspirin	9 days after an invasive procedure	The physician ordered "resumption of Bayaspirin the day after surgery," but the order was overlooked.

## Forgetting to Resume Anticoagulants/Antiplatelet Drugs

### Case 1

The physician stopped the patient's anticoagulant (Warfarin) because s/he was to undergo surgery. The physician intended to delay the resumption of the anticoagulant, due to the risk of post-operative hemorrhage, but the anticoagulant was not resumed thereafter. On the 17th day after surgery, the patient failed to respond when the physician called him/her, so the physician ordered a head CT examination, which revealed a cerebral infarction.

### Case 2

The patient had stopped taking an antiplatelet drug (Bayaspirin) a week before surgery. The physician had written "resume Bayaspirin the day after surgery" on the order at the time of admission, but the nurse overlooked the order and failed to resume it. On the ninth day after surgery, when an MRI examination of the head was carried out because the patient was drowsy, the patient was found to have suffered multiple cerebral infarction.

#### Preventive measures taken at the medical institutions in which the events occurred

- A column for noting the date of resumption of anticoagulants/antiplatelet drugs will be added to post-operative orders.
- Ward pharmacists will provide physicians with information about the administration status of anticoagulants/antiplatelet drugs after surgery.

\* As part of the Project to Collect Medical Near-Miss/Adverse Event Information (a Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare grant project), this medical safety information was prepared based on the cases collected in the Project as well as on opinions of the "Comprehensive Evaluation Panel" to prevent the occurrence and recurrence of medical adverse events. See quarterly reports and annual reports posted on the Japan Council for Quality Health Care website for details of the Project.

<http://www.med-safe.jp/>

\* Accuracy of information was ensured at the time of preparation but cannot be guaranteed in the future.

\* This information is intended neither to limit the discretion of healthcare providers nor to impose certain obligations or responsibilities on them.

