

British Society for Dermatological Surgery
BLEEDING RISK FOR SKIN SURGERY GUIDANCE
 (see accompanying document for details)

HIGH RISK PROCEDURES (highest risk first)
 -Large secondary intention wounds on non-compressible sites (e.g. eyelids, neck, lip, genitals)
 -Wide excision and direct closure on non-compressible sites
 -Local interpolated flaps (e.g. paramedian forehead flap)
 -Large local flaps on head & neck with wide undermining (e.g. forehead, periocular, cheek, nose, neck, ear)
 -Grafts on non-compressible sites

HIGH RISK PATIENT FACTORS
 (highest risk first)

-Previous post-op bleeding episode
 -Unable/unwilling to rest post-op
 -Poor home support if bleeds
 -Bleeding tendency
 (Age >65)

**STRATIFY
 PROCEDURE
 RISK**

ISOLATED PROCEDURE RISK
 (highest risk first)

-Secondary intention
 -Flaps
 -Grafts
 -Direct closure

ACTIONS THAT MAY REDUCE RISK

Postpone
 Choose safer surgical procedure (or radiotherapy or non-surgical)
 Increase support or admit patient
 Elevate and compress post-op
 Change operative setting (e.g. to improve equipment access, nursing support or more suitable operator)

SPECIFIC ADVICE ON BLEEDING AGENTS/TENDENCY
 (drugs in order of risk lowest to highest)

BLEEDING TENDENCY
 Von Willebrand
 Haemophilia
 Low platelets

Take advice from
 Haematology/Haemophilia centre
 Platelets >50 satisfactory

HIGH RISK PROCEDURE

ASPIRIN

**LOW/MODERATE RISK
 PROCEDURE**

Continue

DIPYRIDAMOLE

Continue

WARFARIN

INR <3.5
 2-2.5 if therapeutic
 range allows

CLOPIDOGREL

INR <3.5

Consider
 stopping 24-48hrs pre-op
 (take advice)

NOAC/DOAC
 e.g dabigatran,
 rivaroxaban, apixaban

Continue

Stop any unintended prescription
 (check with GP/prescriber)
 Consider postponing if near end
 of course
 Consider stopping clopidogrel or
 1 agent (take advice)

COMBINATIONS

OTHER ACUTE AGENTS
 Fondaparinux, heparin, prasugrel,
 danaparoid, ticlopidine

Postpone

HERBS & SUPPLEMENTS
 (including teas)

Stop 2 weeks pre-op

Risk Stratification of skin surgery procedures

Low risk procedures	Moderate risk procedures	High risk procedures
Curettage	Excision and direct closure on non-compressible areas (neck, lip, genitals)	Secondary intention wounds on non-compressible sites
Punch biopsy	Wide excision and direct closure on trunk & limbs	Excision within the orbit (e.g. eyelids)
Incisional biopsy- scar length <10cm	Secondary intention wounds on compressible sites	Where bone is involved
Excision and direct closure on trunk, limbs, or compressible head & neck sites (scar length <10cm)	Grafts on compressible sites (& split thickness graft donor sites)	Local flaps on head & neck with wide undermining (e.g. forehead, periorcular - especially orbital, cheek, large nose flaps, neck)
	Small local flaps (e.g. rhombic on nose, or wedge or helical rim advancement on ear)	Local interpolated flaps (e.g. paramedian forehead flap)
		Wide excision and direct closure on non-compressible sites (e.g. neck)
		Grafts on non-compressible sites