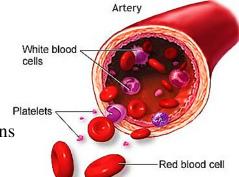
Treating Stroke



Anticoagulant/Antithrombotic ("Blood Thinner") Medications

- Prevent blood clots from forming or growing larger
- Cannot dissolve a clot that has already formed
- Side effects include: bruising, upset stomach, bleeding gums when brushing teeth, loss of appetite, cough, and/or hoarse voice
 - o Use a soft toothbrush and an electric razor to reduce risk of bleeding

Anti-platelet Medications

- Prevent blood clot formation by reducing the stickiness of blood
- Usually prescribed for patients after a heart attack, stroke, or stent placement

Tell your doctor or nurse if you have any of the following:

- Any blood in urine or bowel movements
- Severe headache or sudden intense pain
- Dizziness, vision changes, confusion, slurred speech, or one-sided weakness
- Report any unusual bleeding, severe bruising, symptoms, or any concerns

Coumadin® (Warfarin)

- A blood thinner medication that lowers the chance of blood clots forming
- Take Coumadin exactly as prescribed
- Do not change your diet or stop taking other medications without your doctor's approval
- Request special instructions on what you can or cannot eat since dietary vitamin K can affect Coumadin® blood levels
- Call your health care provider for the following side effects: bleeding gums, bruising, nosebleeds, red or black stool, and pink or brown urine
- Other blood thinners available: Xarelto® and Pradaxa®
 - o Each have their own specific precautions
 - Ask your doctor or nurse for information on these drugs