



Cough/Cold Medicines and Warfarin (Coumadin)

Not all over-the-counter cough and cold medicines are safe to take with warfarin. If you have a cold, try one of these SAFE medicines (brand names are in parentheses):

Cough (wet/productive)

Guaifenesin (Robitussin, Mucinex)

Cough (dry/non-productive)

Dextromethorphan (Mucinex DM, Robitussin DM, Coricidin HBP)

Stuffy Nose

Pseudoephedrine (Sudafed*)
Phenylephrine (Sudafed PE*)
Oxymetazoline (Afrin nasal spray)
Saline nasal spray

Runny Nose

Diphenhydramine (Benadryl)
Chlorpheniramine (Chlor-Trimeton)
Loratadine (Claritin)
Brompheniramine (Dimetapp)

Fever/Pain

Acetaminophen (Tylenol, Theraflu, Nyquil)

Sore Throat

Phenol (Chloraseptic spray)
Cepacol lozenges

** May not be safe for those with atrial fibrillation or high blood pressure.*

AVOID These Medicines

The following medications are NOT SAFE to take with warfarin:

- Menthol cough drops: These drops may increase the risk of forming a clot.
- Airborne: This drug contains many vitamins that can increase your risk of bleeding and herbal supplements that can interact with warfarin.
- Pepto-Bismol, Alka-Seltzer and Excedrin: Some formulas contain aspirin or aspirin-type ingredients.

Please discuss vitamins and herbal supplements with your pharmacist or nurse before starting to take them, as they may interact with warfarin. Please call the Coumadin Clinic within 24 hours if you have ANY changes in your medications.

Headaches/Pain

While on warfarin, you should take only acetaminophen (Tylenol) for headaches/pain, with the following limitations:

- Tylenol Regular Strength (325 mg/tablet): Maximum of six tablets a day
- Tylenol Extra Strength (500 mg/tablet): Maximum of four tablets a day
- Tylenol Arthritis Pain (650 mg/tablet): Maximum of three tablets a day

Ibuprofen, naproxen and aspirin can increase your risk of bleeding if you take warfarin. (Aspirin 81-mg tablets may be OK if approved by your doctor.)

Below is a list of NSAIDS (aspirin-type medications) ranked from least to greatest risk of causing internal bleeding.

Least risk



Greater risk

1. Celebrex
2. Ibuprofen
3. Diclofenac (Volteran)
4. Meloxicam (Mobic)
5. Indomethacin (Indocin)
6. Ketoprofen
7. Naproxen
8. Piroxicam
9. Ketorlac