Anticoagulation

Anticoagulation refers to the use of medications that **inhibit blood clot formation**, reducing the risk of thromboembolic events (e.g., stroke, pulmonary embolism), but increasing the risk of **bleeding**, especially in the **central nervous system**.

Main Classes of Anticoagulants

- **Vitamin K antagonists**:
    - Example: Warfarin
    - Requires INR monitoring
- **Direct oral anticoagulants (DOACs)**:
    - Direct thrombin inhibitor: **Dabigatran**
    - Factor Xa inhibitors: **Rivaroxaban, Apixaban, Edoxaban**
- **Heparins**:
    - Unfractionated heparin (UFH) – IV, reversible with protamine
    - Low molecular weight heparin (LMWH) – e.g., enoxaparin

⚠ Risks in Neurosurgery

- ↑ Risk of **intracranial hemorrhage** with trauma or surgery
- Delayed bleeding despite initial normal CT
- Potential need for **emergency reversal agents**
- Influence on **surgical timing** and **postoperative care**

Anticoagulation Management

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