

Risk factors for bleeding complications of warfarin therapy

Based on the consensus guidelines of the Warfarin Reversal Consensus Group, on behalf of the Australasian Society of Thrombosis and Haemostasis (2004).

The major determinant of bleeding risk is the INR.

Other patient-related risk factors:

Age	> 65 years
Cardiac	Uncontrolled hypertension
Gastrointestinal	History of gastrointestinal haemorrhage, active peptic ulcer, hepatic insufficiency
Haematologic/oncologic	Thrombocytopenia, platelet dysfunction, coagulation defect, underlying malignancy
Neurologic	History of stroke, or cognitive or psychological impairment
Renal	Renal insufficiency
Trauma	Recent trauma, history of falls
Alcohol	Excessive alcohol intake
Medications*	Aspirin, NSAIDs, herbal remedies that interfere with haemostasis

These risk factors can be additive.

* Careful monitoring of warfarin effect is critical to minimise risk in patients taking multiple medications.