**Intensive Care Unit**

**Protocol**

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Management of epidural catheters and anticoagulation

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| **Anticoagulant** | **Minimum interval** |
| **Unfractioned heparin UFH**Epidural puncture +/- catheter insertion post heparin: Heparin post puncture +/- catheter insertion: Removal of epidural catheter post heparin:Heparin post catheter removal:Heparin post traumatic puncture (ask anaesthetist): | 6 hours1 hour4 hours and aPTT normal1 hour4 - 6 hours |
| **LMWH**Puncture +/- catheter insertion: Prophylactic  TherapeuticLMWH post puncture +/- catheterinsertion OD BDRemoval of catheter post LMWH Prophylactic TherapeuticLMWH post catheter removal *Fondaparinux (Arixtra)*– puncture/ insertion after last doseRemoval post administrationAdministration post removal | 12 hours24 hours6 hours24 hours12 hours24 hours6 hours8 hours22 - 36 hours2 - 12 hours |
| **Oral anticoagulants**Removal of catheterInitiation of oral anticoagulation post removal | INR <1.5Immediate |
| **Antiplatelets**Aspirin®NSAIDClopidogrel (Plavix®) – catheter insertion after last doseTiclopidine (Ticlid®) – catheter insertion after last doseGP IIb/IIIa inhibitors (tirofiban/ Aggrastat®, eptifibatide/ Integrillin®, abciximab/ ReoPro®) | No restrictionsNo restrictions7 days10 - 14 days(8 -) 48 hours |
| **Thrombolysis** (Urokinase, Streptokinase, rt-PA) | No definite recommendations, might consider measuring fibrinogen levels for decision making |