**Intensive Care Unit**

**Protocol**

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**Timothy Aebi, Kevin Clarskon, Brian Kirinons, Ger Naughton**

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 hours  1 hour  4 hours and aPTT normal  1 hour  4 - 6 hours |
| **LMWH**  Puncture +/- catheter insertion: Prophylactic  Therapeutic  LMWH post puncture +/- catheterinsertion  OD  BD  Removal of catheter post LMWH Prophylactic  Therapeutic  LMWH post catheter removal  *Fondaparinux (Arixtra)*– puncture/ insertion after last dose  Removal post administration  Administration post removal | 12 hours  24 hours  6 hours  24 hours  12 hours  24 hours  6 hours  8 hours  22 - 36 hours  2 - 12 hours |
| **Oral anticoagulants**  Removal of catheter  Initiation of oral anticoagulation post removal | INR <1.5  Immediate |
| **Antiplatelets**  Aspirin®  NSAID  Clopidogrel (Plavix®) – catheter insertion after last dose  Ticlopidine (Ticlid®) – catheter insertion after last dose  GP IIb/IIIa inhibitors (tirofiban/ Aggrastat®, eptifibatide/ Integrillin®, abciximab/ ReoPro®) | No restrictions  No restrictions  7 days  10 - 14 days  (8 -) 48 hours |
| **Thrombolysis** (Urokinase, Streptokinase, rt-PA) | No definite recommendations, might consider measuring fibrinogen levels for decision making |