

# Anticoagulants: How a Blood Clot Forms

You have been prescribed an Anticoagulant medication.

To understand how anticoagulants work, let's take a look at how your blood forms a clot.

When you get a cut your body quickly reacts to fix the problem.

Platelets in your blood move toward the cut and start to stick together.

This causes your body to create Thrombin and Fibrin, which also stick to the platelets forming a clot over the injury.

This stops the bleeding and allows the wound to heal.

The same process can happen inside your blood vessel.

A clot can form inside a blood vessel if:  
the wall becomes damaged, there is plaque on an artery wall that ruptures, or if your blood pools or collects in an area of your body like the atria of your heart or your legs.

These clots can cause potentially dangerous health problems.

Taking your anticoagulant medication as directed will help to reduce your risk of developing a harmful blood clot.

If you have any questions about how your anticoagulant works, talk to your healthcare provider.