Overview of perioperative management of warfarin therapy and heparin bridging before and after surgery

Is surgery elective or emergency/urgent?

- Elective
  - Is warfarin interruption needed in patient who are undergoing elective surgery?
    - No
      - No need to stop warfarin before surgery
      - Patient is at low risk for thromboembolism
    - Yes
      - Bleeding risk associated with surgery is not low
      - Is bridging anticoagulation needed during warfarin interruption?
        - No
          - Patient is at low risk for thromboembolism
        - Yes
          - Patient is at high or/- moderate risk for thromboembolism

- Emergency / urgent
  - Less than 24 hr
    - Administer IV vitamin K 2 to 4 mg, and fresh frozen plasma or prothrombin complex concentrate if needed
  - More than 24 hr
    - Administer IV vitamin K 2 to 4 mg

Day 5: stop warfarin (last dose day -6)
Day 1: INR testing (if INR > 1.5 administer vitamin k, 1 to 2 mg orally)
Day 2: resume warfarin on evening after surgery if patient drinking fluids
Day 1 to 3: resume warfarin when patient drinking fluids