

## Blood thinners and gastrointestinal endoscopies

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As the number of diagnostic and therapeutic gastrointestinal endoscopies is increasing, and there is an increase in number of patients taking blood thinners, we are seeing more and more patients on blood thinners. Gastrointestinal tract is the most common site of significant bleeding in patients on blood thinners. Thousands of people per day and millions of people per year are having gastrointestinal endoscopies in the United States and throughout the world. The various gastrointestinal endoscopic procedures performed are esophagogastroduodenoscopy, colonoscopy, endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP), flexible sigmoidoscopy, pouch/stoma endoscopy, enteroscopy (push, spiral, balloon assisted, *i.e.*, single balloon or double balloon), endoscopic ultrasound (EUS-mediastinal, pancreatic, rectal), capsule endoscopy and capsule colonoscopy. All these procedures have diagnostic and therapeutic potentials except capsule endoscopy and capsule colonoscopy in which neither any diagnostic biopsy nor any intervention can be done.

Blood thinners may potentiate the risk of bleeding during or after performing these procedures. In the last few years, new blood thinners have been introduced in the market. As safety is the most important concern before performing a procedure, endoscopists should be very familiar with the different blood thinners available in the market.

### Speaker Biography

Monjur Ahmed has graduated from Dhaka Medical College, Dhaka, Bangladesh in 1983. Then went to United Kingdom for receiving post-graduate training and certification in Internal Medicine. After becoming the Member of Royal College of Physicians of the United Kingdom, he came to the United States. He did residency in Internal Medicine and fellowship in Gastroenterology at Catholic Medical Center of Brooklyn and Queens affiliated with Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York. He also did gastrointestinal motility fellowship at Temple University Hospital, Philadelphia. He is currently working as Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine at Thomas Jefferson University. Clinical interests include blood thinners during endoscopy, eosinophilic esophagitis, gastroesophageal reflux disease and celiac disease.

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