

NPO Except:

**Continue Beta-Blockers
even when patients
are NPO for Surgery**

Patient-Safety Concern

Missing a beta-blocker dose during the peri-operative period is associated with increased morbidity and mortality.

Evidence/Support

The American College of Cardiology / American Heart Association recommend continuation of beta-blocker therapy in the peri-operative period as a Class 1 priority.

Best Practice

Patients who routinely take a beta-blocker should continue their beta-blocker on the day of surgery. If the patient's routine dose cannot be given at the regular time due to surgery, give with a sip of water prior to going to surgery.

And remember: **CATS** Decrease Surgical Site Infections.
(**C**lippers, **A**ntibiotics, **T**emperature, & **S**ugar)

Additional information about improving surgical care is available at www.medqic.org.