Stopping Antithrombotics Before Surgery

Classic timings ordered by half-life (European source) · US guidance below

UFH — **IV unfractionated heparin**
about 4-6 hours (also used as a bridge)

LMWH — **Low-molecular-weight heparin**
about 24 hours

DOAC — **DOAC (apixaban, rivaroxaban)**
about 2 days (longer with kidney failure)

VKA — **Warfarin (vitamin K antagonist)**
about 5 days, checking the INR

AP — **Antiplatelets**
classic rule 7-10 days (platelet lifespan)

Bridging
Heparin in high thrombotic risk

Low bleeding risk
Dental, cataract: often no need to stop

US differs
See the note below

US, CHEST 2022: DOAC 1-2 days (dabigatran 1-4) · no heparin bridging in atrial fibrillation on warfarin · before CABG keep aspirin, stop clopidogrel 5 d, prasugrel 7 d, ticagrelor 3-5 d