



Pre-hospital tranexamic acid for trauma victims.

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Timely treatment with the drug tranexamic acid significantly reduces deaths from bleeding in injury victims. This was proven a decade ago in a large UK government funded multi-center clinical trial (the CRASH-2 trial). This finding has subsequently been confirmed in other large multi-center trials conducted in the UK and USA. Indeed, tranexamic acid is the only treatment reliably proven to save lives in trauma victims. It appears to be equally effective in polytrauma and isolated traumatic brain injury. The drug needs to be given soon after injury for maximal effect. If given within an hour of injury it cuts bleeding deaths by one third. Based on the CRASH-2 trial results, tranexamic acid was included in ambulance and hospital guidelines and was included on the World Health Organization list of essential medicines. Japan is one of the few developed countries where paramedics do not give tranexamic acid at the scene of injury. A few years ago, a request was made to the Japanese Ministry of Health to change this to allow the use of tranexamic acid by paramedics but the Ministry determined that more evidence was needed. This evidence is now available including evidence that tranexamic acid is well tolerated and rapidly absorbed after intra muscular injection. This presentation summarizes the evidence for the safety and effectiveness of pre-hospital tranexamic acid treatment for trauma victims.