



tel: 01 4912578
palliativemedsinfo@olh.ie



Question: Can tranexamic acid be applied topically to a bleeding wound?

December 2018

Summary

- The topical use of tranexamic acid solution for injection is unlicensed.
- The use of gauze soaked in tranexamic acid and applied with pressure to a localised area has been reported for the treatment of surface bleeding.
- Gauze should be soaked with the undiluted contents of a standard 500mg/5mL ampoule of tranexamic acid solution for injection and applied to the wound with pressure for 10 minutes.

Literature

- The British National Formulary advises that gauze soaked in tranexamic acid 100 mg/mL can be applied to the affected area for the treatment of capillary bleeding.¹
- The Palliative Care Formulary advises that for the treatment of bleeding from fungating cancer in the skin, the solution from a standard undiluted 500mg/5mL ampoule for injection (10%) should be soaked into gauze and applied with pressure for 10 minutes, then left in situ with a dressing.²
- Symptom Management in Advanced Cancer (4th Edition) advises that for the treatment of surface bleeding, tranexamic acid solution for injection from standard ampoules (500mg/5ml) should be poured on gauze and applied with pressure for ten minutes.³

References

1. Prescribing in Palliative Care. Symptom Control. British National Formulary. Available from www.medicinescomplete.com. Accessed on the 22/08/2018.
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3. Twycross R, Wilcock A, Stark Toller C. Symptom Management in Advanced Cancer. 4th Edition. palliativedrugs.com. 2009. Pg 236.