

Tranexamic Acid for Management of Postpartum Hemorrhage

Summary from: OBSTETRICS, GYNECOLOGY AND WOMEN'S HEALTH (May 2017)

- For women with postpartum hemorrhage diagnosed within three hours of delivery, we recommend administration of tranexamic acid as a component of overall treatment (Grade 1B). When more than three hours have elapsed since delivery, we still suggest tranexamic acid (Grade 2C), but the benefit of treatment is less clear.

Tranexamic acid, an antifibrinolytic drug, reduces bleeding in surgical and trauma patients. In a pragmatic randomized trial involving over 20,000 women with postpartum hemorrhage in over 20 countries (the World Maternal Antifibrinolytic Randomized Trial [WOMAN]), tranexamic acid, compared with placebo, reduced the relative risk of death due to bleeding by 20 to 30 percent, reduced the incidence of laparotomy to control bleeding, and was not associated with an increase in adverse effects [6]. Overall mortality was not reduced. We now recommend administration of tranexamic acid as a component of the treatment for postpartum hemorrhage. (See "Postpartum hemorrhage: Medical and minimally invasive management".)