23.5.6 ANTIFIBRINOLYTIC MEDICATION

DESCRIPTION

Tranexamic acid is an antifibrinolytic agent that acts by inhibiting the activation of plasminogen, an enzyme responsible for fibrinolysis. Tranexamic acid may be considered in the following settings:

» Adjunctive medication in the prevention and treatment of bleeding.
» Where viscoelastic testing shows evidence of hyperfibrinolysis.

MEDICINE TREATMENT

Severe trauma (if given within 3 hours):

- Tranexamic acid, IV:
  - Loading dose: 1 g over 10 minutes as a bolus infusion.
  - Maintenance dose: 1 g added to 100 ml 0.9% saline over 8 hours as an infusion.

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Bleeding postpartum obstetric patients:

- Tranexamic acid, IV, 1 g over 10 minutes as a bolus infusion.

If bleeding persists (after 30 minutes):

- Tranexamic acid, IV, 1 g added to 100mls 0.9% saline over 8 hours as an infusion.

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Note:

» Benefit is greatest if initiated in the 1st hour. Initiation of tranexamic acid more than 3 hours after the initial insult may increase the risk of bleeding and mortality.