



**The Leeds
Teaching Hospitals**
NHS Trust

Tranexamic Acid

Information for patients

What is Tranexamic Acid?

Tranexamic Acid or TXA is an anti - fibrinolytic medicine. This means it helps to stop blood clots from breaking down, which slows down bleeding.

Why have I been given this leaflet?

The manufacturer's leaflet that comes with your medication is often aimed at adults and may not include all the information relevant to children and young people. This leaflet has been written specifically about the use of Tranexamic Acid in children and young people.

What is Tranexamic Acid used for?

It is commonly prescribed for people with known bleeding disorders to prevent excessive bleeding after procedures such as dental extraction. It can also be used to prevent excessive bleeding from the nose, gum bleeding, bleeding after trauma and heavy menstrual bleeding (periods).

How is Tranexamic Acid given and for how long?

It can be given by mouth as a tablet or liquid solution, the liquid solution can also be used as a mouthwash. The liquid solution is classed as an unlicensed form of Tranexamic Acid which means it is known as a 'special' medicine. If you want more information about this please ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

Tranexamic Acid is often prescribed by mouth for a course of 5 to 7 days. As it is often prescribed to be given three times a day (check your own prescription), try and space the doses

out as evenly as possible to work best, for example give doses 08:00, 14:00 and 19:00 to fit around your child's routine. Putting medication reminders on your phone can help you to remember.

If having tablets they should be swallowed whole with a drink or crushed in a small amount of honey or jam. Make sure that your child swallows the dose straightaway (no chewing) and that they get the full dose.

If giving the liquid solution use the syringe provided to measure the correct dose. If using as mouthwash after a dental procedure and taking orally draw up the required amount and get your child to swill the solution around their mouth holding it in for as long as possible before swallowing it.

In some situations your doctor or nurse may ask you to apply Tranexamic Acid liquid to the area that is bleeding. If this is appropriate for you, your doctor or nurse will give you advice on how to do this.

Tranexamic Acid can also be given into the veins as an injection or infusion.

How long does it take Tranexamic Acid to work?

If prescribed to prevent excessive bleeding post-surgery, the first dose should be given before the procedure and should start working straightaway. It could take up to 24 hours to get the maximum effect.

Side effects

Most patients do not experience side effects with Tranexamic Acid and the benefits of Tranexamic Acid usually outweigh the risks making it a commonly used medication to prevent excessive bleeding. However, all medicines have potential risks and side effects. Some people taking Tranexamic Acid can develop diarrhoea. Another possible side effect of Tranexamic Acid is a rash. If this happens it is very important to inform your doctor as your child may have an allergy. There are other less common side effects possible with Tranexamic Acid, if you notice anything unusual that you are concerned about please contact your doctor.

Tranexamic Acid should be avoided if there is visible bleeding in the urine. It should also be avoided in certain coagulation disturbances seen in very sick children (Disseminated intravascular coagulation).

It is important that any prescriber of Tranexamic Acid is aware of any other drugs being taken in case of interactions.

What if my child is sick (vomits)?

- If your child is sick less than 30 minutes after having a dose of Tranexamic Acid, give them the same dose again.
- If your child is sick more than 30 minutes after having a dose of Tranexamic Acid, you do not need to give them another dose. Wait until the next scheduled dose.
- What if I forget to give it?
- If you usually give it twice a day: If you remember up to four hours after you should have given a dose, give your child the missed dose. For example, if you usually give a

dose at about 7:00 am, you can give the missed dose any time up to 11:00 am. If you remember after that time, do not give the missed dose. Just give the next dose as usual.

- If you usually give it three times a day: Do not give the missed dose. Just give the next dose as usual.

Never give a double dose of Tranexamic Acid

General advice about medicines

- Try to give medicines at about the same times each day, to help you remember.
- If you are not sure a medicine is working, contact your doctor but continue to give the medicine as usual in the meantime. Do not give extra doses, as you may do harm.
- Only give this medicine to your child. Never give it to anyone else, even if their condition appears to be the same, as this could do harm.
- Make sure that you always have enough medicine. Order a new prescription at least two weeks before you will run out.
- Make sure that the medicine you have at home has not reached the 'best before' or 'use by' date on the packaging. Give old medicines to your pharmacist to dispose of.

Personal Notes

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