What is Tranexamic Acid? (TXA)

TXA is an anti-fibrinolytic drug and a synthetic equivalent of the amino acid lysine. TXA can help to reduce mortality in the acute hemorrhaging adult trauma patient if given within three hours of injury.1,5

**Indications for administration**

General guidelines based on the CRASH-2 study for use of TXA in the bleeding adult trauma patient are:1,6

- Administration less than three hours from time of injury
- Severe hemorrhagic shock with systolic blood pressure (SBP) below 90 mmHg
- Heart rate above 110 beats per minute
- Multi-system trauma with evidence of active hemorrhage
- Major pelvic fracture with evidence of active hemorrhage
- Solid organ injuries with evidence of active hemorrhage
- Traumatic amputations

**How is it given?**6-7

**Loading dose bolus:**

TXA 1 GRAM + NORMAL SALINE 100 ml given over 10 minutes

Followed by intravenous infusion:

TXA 1 GRAM + NORMAL SALINE 250 ml given over 8 hours

**Adverse effects**6

- Anaphylaxis
- Thrombosis
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
- Visual disturbances - blurred vision, changes in color
- Hypotension with rapid infusion, rate >100 mg/min

**Contraindications**6

- Acquired defective color vision
- Hypersensitivity to TXA or any of its ingredients
- Subarachnoid hemorrhage and/or known isolated head injury
- Do not give in conjunction with prothrombin complex concentrate (PCC)
- Active intravascular clotting and/or history of thromboembolism
- Known history of renal failure

**REFERENCES:**