

Tranexamic acid

Information for parents and
carers

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What is tranexamic acid?

Tranexamic acid is one of a group of medicines called antifibrinolytics. It is used to help reduce bleeding.

When your child bleeds, their body forms clots or plugs as part of the healing process. If your child has a bleeding disorder, the clots or plugs may not be strong enough to stay in place, and this can lead to continued bleeding. Tranexamic acid helps to stabilise the clot and keep it in place.

What is it used for?

Tranexamic acid is used to stop or reduce bleeding in several circumstances and for many conditions. These include:

- after minor surgery
- after certain dental procedures
- heavy menstrual bleeding
- nosebleeds
- prolonged bleeding from cuts.

How is it given?

Tranexamic acid is usually given in a tablet form. The tablets should be swallowed whole with a glass of water, although the tablets can be crushed and mixed with water.

A liquid may also be prescribed. However, the liquid form of tranexamic acid is classed as an unlicensed 'special' medicine. For more information about what this means, please speak to your pharmacist or ask for a

copy of our leaflet **Unlicensed medicines – a guide for patients**.

In hospital, your child may be given tranexamic acid as an injection into their vein. A mouthwash solution may also be given, for example after a dental procedure or following a mouth bleed. This should not be swallowed.

What if I forget to give a dose?

Tranexamic acid should be taken at the same times each day. If you forget to give a dose:

- **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 7am, you can give the missed dose any time up to 11am. 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.

Who should not be given tranexamic acid?

Children should not take tranexamic acid if they:

- have had a blood clot in the leg or lung
- have kidney disease
- are passing blood in the urine
- are allergic to it or to any of the other ingredients (please see the patient information leaflet in the box of medication)
- suffer from convulsions (fits).

Are there any side-effects?

Tranexamic acid does not usually cause side-effects.

Rarely, some patients do experience:

- nausea (feeling sick), vomiting or diarrhoea
- feeling dizzy or faint, due to a drop in blood pressure (this may be eased by getting up slowly)
- allergic reactions, such as a rash
- eyesight problems, such as colour changes in vision
- very rarely, the forming of a clot in the legs or the lung: symptoms may include cramping pain, redness or swelling in the legs, or breathlessness, chest pain, fainting or coughing up blood.

If your child experiences any of these side-effects please seek medical advice immediately or contact the Haemophilia Centre using the contact details below.

Is there anything else I need to know?

Make sure you tell any people treating your child (for example, their dentist) that they have a bleeding disorder and which medicines they are taking (including tranexamic acid).

How do I get a repeat prescription?

You can get a repeat prescription through your GP. If you have any problems with your child's repeat prescription, please contact the Haemophilia Centre.

Contact details

Haemophilia Centre for adults, St Thomas' Hospital:

Reception: 020 7188 2807 / 2781

Nurses: 020 7188 2790

Haemophilia Centre for children, Evelina London

Children's Hospital:

Secretary 020 7188 7545

Nurses 020 7188 4704

Out of hours and emergencies:

Please call the hospital switchboard on 020 7188 7188 and ask for 'haematology doctor on-call for haemophilia'.

For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/leaflets

Useful organisations

The Haemophilia Society

UK charity for anyone with a bleeding disorder.

t: 020 7939 0780

e: info@haemophilia.org.uk

w: www.haemophilia.org.uk

Evelina London Medicines Helpline

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's medicines, please speak to the staff caring for them or contact our helpline.

t: 020 7188 3003 10am to 5pm, Monday to Friday

e: letstalkmedicines@gstt.nhs.uk

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

To make comments or raise concerns about the Trust's services, please contact PALS. Ask a member of staff to direct you to the PALS office or:

t: 020 7188 8801 at St Thomas' **t:** 020 7188 8803 at

Guy's **e:** pals@gstt.nhs.uk

Language Support Services

If you need an interpreter or information about your care in a different language or format, please get in touch.

t: 020 7188 8815 **fax:** 020 7188 5953

NHS Choices

Provides online information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare.

w: www.nhs.uk

Notes

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Leaflet number: 4038/VER1

Date published: March 2015

Review date: March 2018

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