

## Patient information

# Tranexamic Acid for Patients with Bleeding Disorders

## Haematology Liverpool

Your Consultant / Doctor has advised you to have tranexamic acid for your bleeding disorder.

### What is tranexamic acid?

Tranexamic acid is classed as an antifibrinolytic compound and is used to reduce bleeding. When bleeding occurs, the body forms clots or 'plugs' as part of the healing process.

In patients with bleeding disorders, these clots may not be strong enough to stay in place, which can lead to on-going bleeding. Therefore, Tranexamic acid is used to stabilise the clot, keep it in place for longer and allow healing to occur.

### Why do we use tranexamic acid?

Tranexamic acid is a compound that improves clot stability and prevents prolonged bleeding. It can be taken prior surgery, dental extraction, and other investigations such as OGD.

Tranexamic acid can be used to prevent hemorrhage in patients with diagnosed bleeding disorders such as Haemophilia A or B, von Willebrand disease, deficiency in Factor V, VII, VIII, IX, X or XI, dysfibrinogenemia or hypofibrinogenemia and inherited platelet disorders.

### What are the risks of having tranexamic acid?

As with most other medicines Tranexamic acid does have some side effects.

**These are not very common, but occasionally some people experience: -**

- Diarrhoea
- Nausea and vomiting
- Allergic Skin Reactions
- Changes in vision have also been reported and it is therefore important to notify a healthcare professional should you experience any changes in vision or the appearance of colours.
- Very rarely, formation of clot in the legs or lung. Symptoms of this may include redness or swelling of the legs, breathlessness, and chest pain

If you suffer from any of these symptoms, please contact your specialist nurse.

**Please inform medical/nursing staff if you suffer from, kidney disease, if you have previously had a clot, or have a history of blood in the urine, suffer from convulsions (fits) or if you are taking FEIBA or high doses of Factor IX.**

### **How is tranexamic acid given?**

Tranexamic acid is usually given orally several times a day to ensure you have cover throughout the day. Whilst tranexamic acid tablets are usually swallowed whole with a glass of water, if you experience problems swallowing these tablets, there are other formulation options available so contact the medical / nursing team for advice.

If you have reduced kidney function, your dose may be adjusted.

### **Will I need any other treatment with tranexamic acid?**

You may need additional treatment which also helps the clotting process for patients at risk of bleeding during surgery or investigatory procedures. This should be discussed with your specialist nurse and be included in your treatment plan.

### **What else do I need to know?**

Make sure the people treating you are aware that you have a bleeding disorder. Inform them that you are taking Tranexamic acid and that a treatment plan should be in place.

### **Feedback**

Your feedback is important to us and helps us influence care in the future.

Following your discharge from hospital or attendance at your outpatient appointment you will receive a text asking if you would recommend our service to others. Please take the time to text back, you will not be charged for the text and can opt out at any point. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

### **Further information**

**If you have any further questions, please ask a member of our medical / nursing team. Please contact the Haemophilia Team, available Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm  
Tel: 0151 706 3397**

### **Useful Websites**

**The Haemophilia Society:  
<https://haemophilia.org.uk/>**

**World Federation of Haemophilia:  
[www.wfh.org](http://www.wfh.org)**

All Trust approved information is available on request in alternative formats, including other languages, easy read, large print, audio, Braille, moon and electronically.

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