A randomised placebo - control trial of tranexamic acid in adult trauma patients published online by *lancet* shows that the early administration of tranexamic acid to trauma patients with, or at risk of significant bleeding reduces the risk of death from haemorrhage with no apparent increase in fatal or nonfatal vascular occlusive events.¹ This is a major breakthrough in trauma care as this provides conclusively the importance of tranexamic acid therapy in patients with major bleeding.

Trauma is one of the leading causes of death in Nigeria with shortest mean time before death in accident and emergency occurring in trauma victim.² Even in those that survive long enough, significant on-going bleeding causing unstable vital signs still constitute major indication for operative intervention especially in blunt abdominal trauma.³ Though, this randomised placebo – control trial of tansexamic acid did not find significant reduction in the unit of blood transfused in both arms of the study, it is evidenced from the authors’ discussion that the drug probably prevents coagulopathy associated with massive traumatic haemorrhage – which is a major cause of early death in trauma.⁴

Inclusion of tranexamic acid in essential medicine will help in preventing trauma related death from significant haemorrhage especially in third world countries.

References


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