

Tranexamic Acid - TXA

- Given to pt's w/ bleeding disorders to help control/prevent bleeding complications- Antifibrinolytic agent: inhibits the conversion of plasminogen to plasmin & the breakdown of fibrin in blood clots. Used to prevent blood loss, decrease need for more blood, & is hung w/ blood. Standard trauma does: 1 gram IV loading dose over 10 min. & give an additional 1 gram over 8 hrs for continued bleeding. Max dose: 2 grams. Watch hemodynamics & for thrombotic events. PE = the biggest risk. Contraindications: Hypersensitivity, known history of DVT/PE/clotting disorders

Massive Transfusion Protocol – MTP (per Beebe's policy)

- A priority for pt's who are rapidly losing blood & circulating volume
- Rapid/massive blood loss definition: 8-10 units of blood given in 24 hrs, 4-5 units of RBC's in 1 hr, A loss of more than 40% of a person's volume of blood in 3 hrs, or Losing more than 150 mL of blood per minute
- Use a rapid transfuser to give blood quickly & safely
- Watch for adverse effects: febrile reaction, hemolytic reaction, circulatory overload and air embolism.

Traumatic Wounds – Control of Bleeding

- Get a baseline of the # of wounds, the location, type/classification, the time/duration, & treatment possibilities. Look at the wound size and appearance, description of edges, and color/condition of the surrounding skin. Pain PQRST, any exudate (amount, type, consistency, odor, color), any s/s of infection. Stop the Bleed- Apply direct pressure, use of a tourniquet. Do not release tourniquet.

Pressure Points

- Brachial Artery Pressure Point- Position are in a 90° angle & hold upper arm away from the body. Feel the inside of the pt's biceps halfway between the elbow & shoulder, push the bicep muscle out of the way "Squeeze" or press your hand down the pt's humerus
 - o If done correctly, you will feel a pulse
- Femoral Artery Pressure Point- supine, kneel next to their hips, on the outside of the bleeding extremity. Find the pelvis & place the little finger of your hand that is the closest to the injured leg along the anterior crest. Rotate your hand down firmly into the pelvic bone & genitals to compress the artery
 - o If the bleeding does not slow down – reposition your hand & try again

Hemostatic Dressings

- Are used in the presence of bleeding w/ direct manual pressure. Dressings are infused w/ agents that help enhance blood clotting. Should be applied w/ 3+ minutes of direct pressure. If it does not work, remove & apply the same or a different type of dressing. No adverse effects but should not be used in head, chest, & abdomen wounds