



Tranexamic acid for the treatment of significant traumatic brain injury: an international randomised, double blind placebo controlled trial

RATIONALE AND OVERVIEW

Traumatic brain injury

- 10 million killed or hospitalised every year
- 90% in low and middle income countries
- Mostly young adults and long lasting disability
- The incidence of TBI is predicted to rise



•Bruns J, Hauser W. *The epidemiology of traumatic brain injury: a review. Epilepsia* 2003;44: Supplement 10:2-10.


•Peden M, Scurfield R, Sleet D, et al. *World Report on Road Traffic Injury Prevention. Geneva: World Health Organization, 2004.*

Tranexamic acid and bleeding

TXA reduces bleeding in surgery

Transfusion

RR (95% CI)


TXA  0.62 (0.58-0.65)

0.4 0.8 1.2 1.6
TXA better TXA worse

95 trials

Mortality

RR (95% CI)

TXA  0.61 (0.38-0.98)

0 0.4 0.8 1.2 1.6
TXA better TXA worse

72 trials

CRASH-2 trial results

TXA-allocated

(n=10,060)

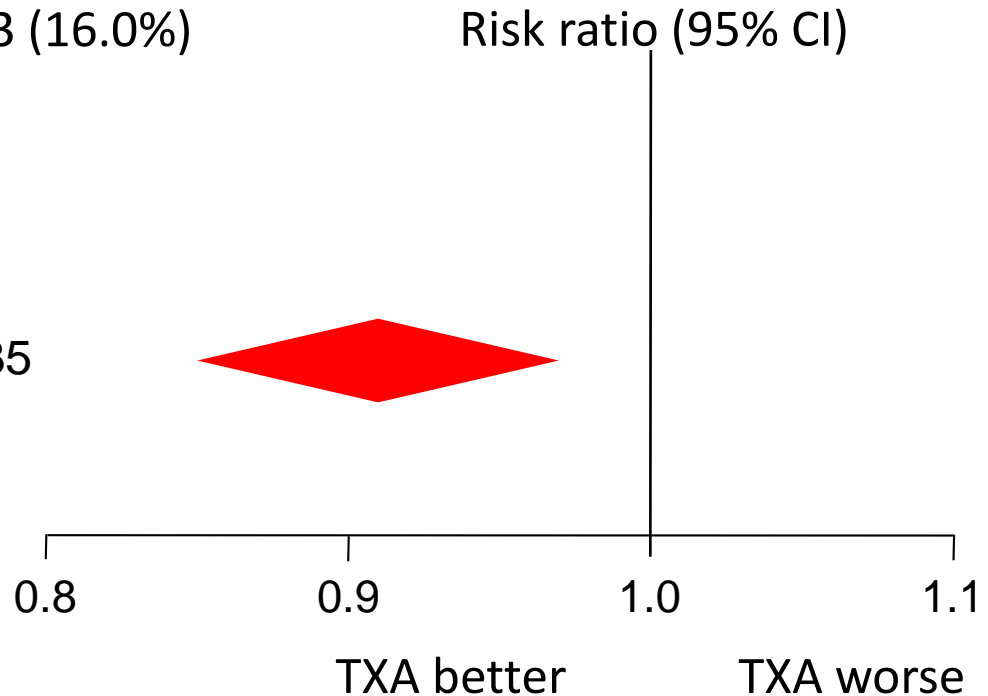
1,463 (14.5%)

Placebo-allocated

(n=10,067)

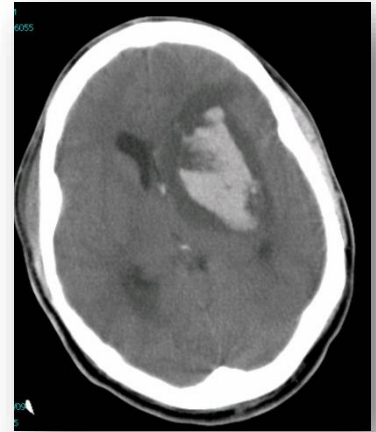
1,613 (16.0%)

0.91 (0.85–0.97) 2P=0.0035



Traumatic Intracranial Bleeding

- Bleeding is a common complication of traumatic brain injury
- It is associated with poor outcome
- It can develop or worsen after hospital admission
- Early intervention may prevent enlargement



- Perel P, Roberts I, Bouamra O, Woodford M, Mooney J, Lecky F. Intracranial bleeding in patients with traumatic brain injury: A prognostic study. *BMC Emergency Medicine* 2009, 9:15
- Oertel M, Kelly DF, McArthur D, Boscardin WJ, Glenn TC, Lee JH, et al. Progressive hemorrhage after head trauma: predictors and consequences of the evolving injury. *J Neurosurg.* 2002;96(1):109-16.
- Narayan RK, Maas AI, Servadei F, Skolnick BE, Tillinger MN, Marshall LF. Progression of traumatic intracerebral hemorrhage: a prospective observational study. *J Neurotrauma.* 2008; 25(6):629-39.

Why TXA and intracranial bleeding?

- Coagulopathy affects about one third of patients with TBI
- Increased fibrinolysis is a common feature of coagulopathy
- Two randomised controlled trials of TXA in TBI

CRASH-2 Intracranial Bleeding Study (IBS)

	TXA n (%)	Placebo n (%)	OR (95% CI) n=249
Significant haemorrhage growth (n 123/126)	44 (36)	56 (44)	0.70 (0.42–1.16)
New focal ischaemic regions (n 123/126)	6 (5)	12 (9)	0.49 (0.18–1.35)
Death (n 133/137)	14 (10.5)	24 (17.5)	0.55 (0.27–1.22)

Thai Study of TXA in TBI

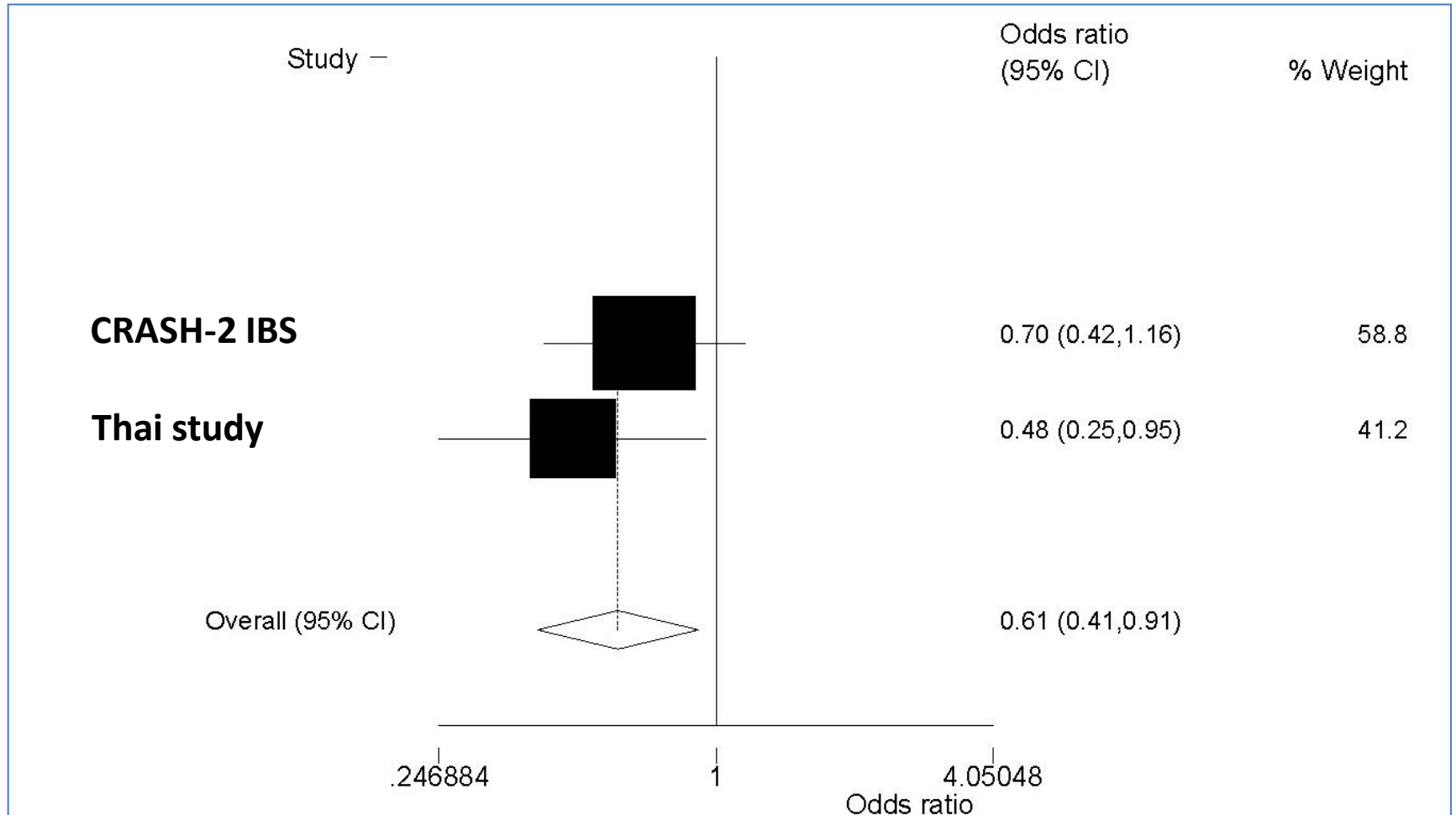
240 patients with isolated TBI

	RR (95% CI)
Haemorrhage growth	0.56 (0.32–0.96)
Mortality	0.67 (0.34–1.32)

- Yutthakasemsunt S, et al. Tranexamic Acid for preventing progressive intracranial hemorrhage in adults with traumatic brain injury; a preliminary report presented at the National Neurotrauma Symposium 2010.
- Available from <http://www.neurotrauma.org/2010/abstracts.htm>

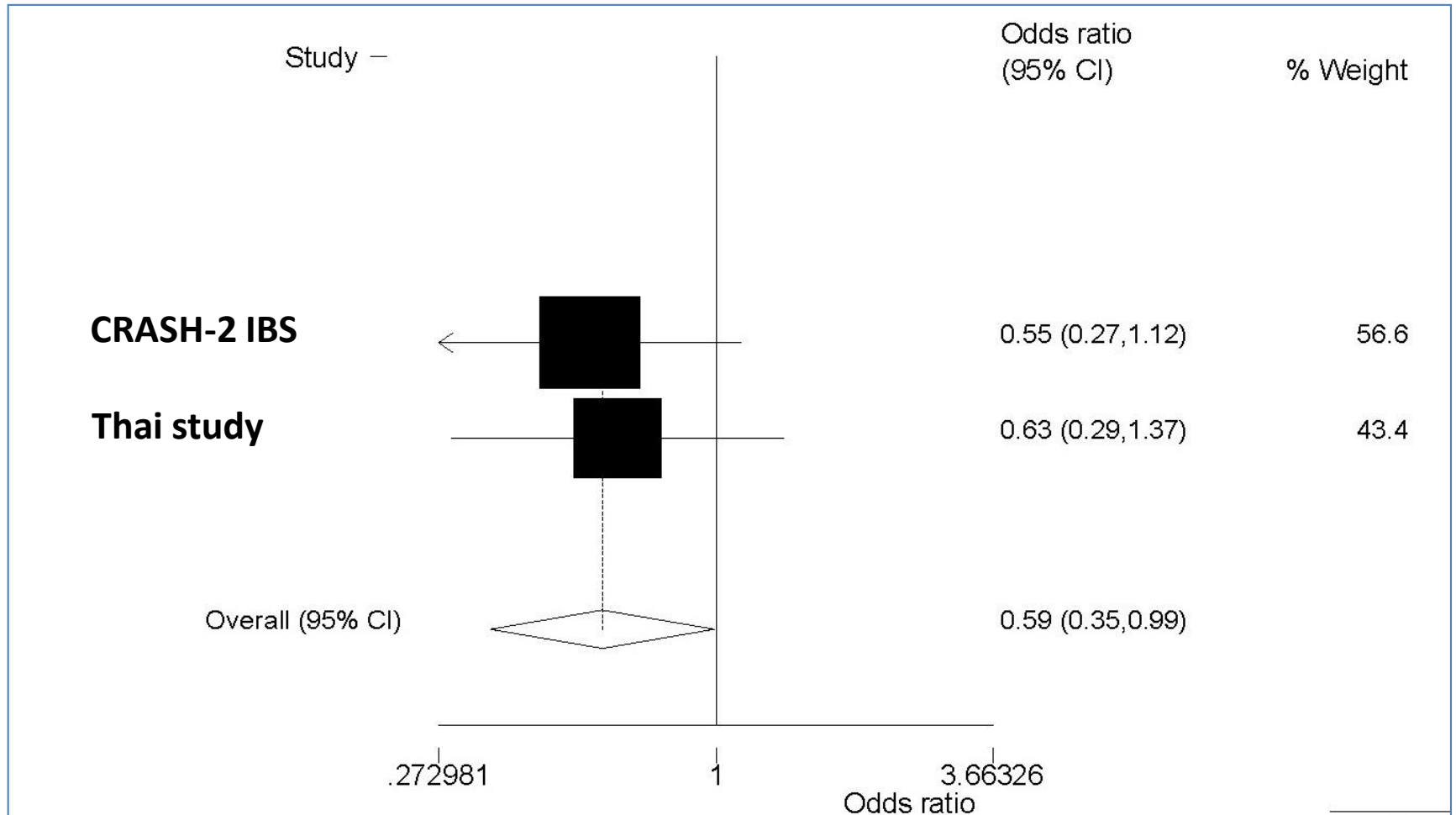
Meta-analysis

Significant Haemorrhage growth



Meta-analysis

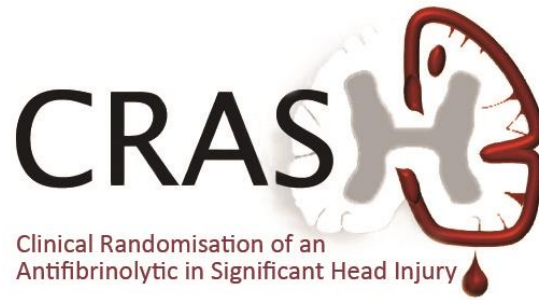
Mortality



CRASH-3 trial

The CRASH-3 trial will provide reliable evidence about the effect of tranexamic acid on mortality and disability in patients with TBI.

The effect of TXA on the risk of vascular occlusive events and seizures will also be assessed.



Sample size

13,000 TBI patients

- 90% power (two sided $\alpha=1\%$)
- 15% relative reduction in all-cause mortality



Before the trial starts

- A completed Hospital & Principal Investigator CV Form
- GCP training certificate(s)
- Approval of your hospital (if required)
- Ethics Approval (local and/or national)
- Ministry of Public Health approval (if applicable)
- A signed Principal Investigator Agreement
- A copy of the approved Patient Information Sheet & Consent form (if different from the protocol sent to you)

Good Clinical Practice (GCP)

Good Clinical Practice (GCP): is an international ethical and scientific quality standard for designing, conducting, recording and reporting trials that involve the participation of human subjects.

- Free online training via our website
- All staff should complete prior to the study starting at your hospital



Create a trial team

Provide information and training to all team members

Nominate someone to be responsible in your absence

Roles may include:

- Principal Investigator
- Sub-investigator
- Data collection
- Study coordinator



Identify people to be responsible for specific trial processes – they must be interested in the trial

Every specialty should be represented:

- neurosurgeons
- traumatologists
- nurses
- intensivists
- general surgeons
- clerical staff
- pharmacy
- managers
- administrators

Overview

ELIGIBILITY

- adult
- with traumatic brain injury
- within 8 hours of injury (for the remainder of the trial we will limit recruitment to patients who are within 3 hours of injury)
- any intracranial bleeding on CT scan OR GCS ≤ 12
- no significant extracranial haemorrhage (requiring immediate transfusion)
- where the responsible clinician is substantially uncertain as to the appropriateness of antifibrinolytic agents in a patient

Appropriate **CONSENT PROCESS** for patient
eg prior representative agreement or waiver

RANDOMISE (tranexamic acid or placebo)
Entry form completed

Give **loading dose** over 10 minutes

Give **maintenance dose** over 8 hours

Complete **outcome form** at prior discharge, death, or day 28

All clinically indicated treatment is given in addition to trial enrolment

Adverse events are reported up to day 28

If prior consent waiver used, consent from patient or relative required after emergency is over

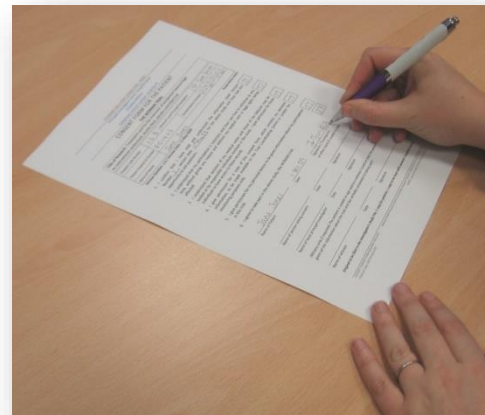
Consent – at trial entry

- **If representative is available:** Bear in mind the distressing nature of the situation and lack of time. Provide them with brief information and if agreement, continue to randomise. Full consent to be obtained after emergency situation is over.
- **If no representative:** Two clinicians (one independent of the trial) will consider the eligibility criteria and any known views of the patient about trial participation. Together they will decide whether or not to enrol the patient into the trial (i.e. a waiver)

Consent – after emergency is over

Full informed written consent for continuation to be obtained from either:

- patient (if capacity returns)
- relative (if they become known and patient unable)
- other representative (if patient unable and if no relative)



Entry Form



ENTRY FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE 1-16 BEFORE RANDOMISING THE PATIENT

ABOUT YOUR HOSPITAL (please ensure all information below is contained in the medical records)

1. Country	
2. Hospital code (in your Study File)	

ABOUT THE PATIENT

3. Patient's initials (first name/last name)		4. Patient hospital ID	
5. Age (years – approximate if unknown)		6. Sex (circle)	MALE FEMALE

ABOUT THE INJURY AND PATIENT'S CONDITION

7. Time since injury (insert hours)		Best estimate from history		
8. Systolic Blood Pressure		mmHg (most recent measurement prior to randomisation)		
9. Glasgow Coma Score (GCS) (circle one response for each category) First measurement in hospital of GCS (if unknown give value at randomisation)	9A—EYE OPENING	9B—MOTOR RESPONSE	9C—VERBAL RESPONSE	IF GCS MORE THAN 12 AND NO CT SCAN AVAILABLE – DO NOT RANDOMISE IF GCS MORE THAN 12, CT SCAN IS AVAILABLE AND INTRACRANIAL BLEEDING=YES – RANDOMISE
	4 SPONTANEOUS	6 OBEYS COMMANDS	5 ORIENTATED	
	3 TO SOUND	5 LOCALISING	4 CONFUSED SPEECH	
	2 TO PAIN	4 NORMAL FLEXION	3 WORDS	
	1 NONE	3 ABNORMAL FLEXION	2 SOUNDS	
	2 EXTENDING	1 NONE		
	1 NONE			
10. This GCS is (circle one)	BEFORE	AFTER	intubation/sedation	
11. Pupil reaction	BOTH REACT		ONE REACTS	NONE REACT UNABLE TO ASSESS
12. Any significant extracranial bleeding?	YES	NO	Patients with extracranial trauma who are likely to need an early blood transfusion in the view of the attending doctor after taking into account mechanism of injury, findings from secondary survey, physiology and response to fluid infusion – DO NOT RANDOMISE	
13. Any intracranial bleeding on CT scan (before randomisation)? (circle one)	YES	NO	NO CT SCAN AVAILABLE	IF CT SCAN AVAILABLE AND INTRACRANIAL BLEEDING=NO – DO NOT RANDOMISE
14. Location of intracranial haemorrhage on CT Scan (circle one response for each line)				
a) Epidural	YES	NO		
b) Subdural	YES	NO		
c) Subarachnoid	YES	NO		
d) Parenchymal	YES	NO		
e) Intraventricular	YES	NO		

One page only

- Complete questions 1–14 to assess eligibility
- If eligible, follow appropriate consent process – complete 15–16
- **RANDOMISE:** Use next lowest available pack number – STRICT NUMERICAL ORDER

Randomisation

- Use next lowest available pack number
- Record on Randomisation log
- Record pack used on Drug Accountability Log



Entry form and Randomisation

RANDOMISATION INFORMATION

Eligible if adult, with TBI, no significant extracranial bleeding, within 8h of injury (GCS=12 or less, or any intracranial haemorrhage on CT scan)

15. Eligible? (circle)	YES	<i>Get the lowest available number treatment pack and follow instructions</i>			NO	<i>Do not randomise, record on screening log</i>				
16. Consent process for entry used? (circle)	WAIVER			OTHER REPRESENTATIVE			RELATIVE			
17. Insert treatment pack number here	BOX			<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	PACK	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
18. Date of randomisation	<i>day</i>	<i>month</i>	<i>year</i>	19. Time of randomisation <i>(24-hour clock)</i>			<i>hours</i>	<i>minutes</i>		
20. Name of person randomising				21. Signature						

- Use next lowest available pack number
- Record on Randomisation log
- Record pack used on Drug Accountability Log

Dose

Treatment	Dose TXA or placebo
Loading	1 gram / 10 minutes (IV infusion)
Maintenance	1 gram / 8 hours (IV infusion)



How to give the trial treatment

**ALL AMPOULES ARE IDENTICAL AND CONTAIN 500mg
OF EITHER TRANEXAMIC ACID OR PLACEBO**

LOADING DOSE

2 ampoules over 10 minutes

**Give immediately after
randomisation**

PRESCRIBE: *“CRASH-3 Trial (1 gram
of tranexamic acid/placebo) over
10 minutes”*

Draw up 10mL (2 ampoules of
tranexamic acid / placebo) and add
to 100mL bag of Sodium Chloride
0.9% (provided) and infuse over 10
minutes.

MAINTENANCE DOSE

2 ampoules over 8 hours

**Start immediately after
completion of loading dose**

PRESCRIBE: *“CRASH-3 Trial (1 gram
of tranexamic acid / placebo).
Infuse at 60 mL/hour”*

Draw up 10mL (2 ampoules of
tranexamic acid / placebo) and add
to 500mL bag of any isotonic
intravenous solution and infuse
over about 8 hours.

Outcomes

Primary outcome

- Death in hospital within four weeks of injury among patients randomised within 3 hours of injury
- Cause-specific mortality will also be recorded

Secondary outcomes

- Vascular occlusive events
- Disability
- Seizures
- Neurosurgical intervention
- Days in intensive care
- Other adverse events will be described

Outcome form

CRASH **OUTCOME FORM**

COMPLETE AT DISCHARGE FROM THE RANDOMISING HOSPITAL, DEATH IN HOSPITAL OR 28 DAYS AFTER INJURY, WHICHEVER OCCURS FIRST

Attach here a sticker from the lid of the treatment pack or write box/pack number below:

1. HOSPITAL (Hospital code)

2. PATIENT a) BOX b) PACK c) INITIALS

3. OUTCOME

3.1 DEATH IN HOSPITAL

a) Date of death b) Time of death

c) Primary Cause of death (tick one option)

Head injury
 Bleeding
 Pulmonary embolism
 Stroke
 Myocardial infarction
 Multi organ failure
 Other/describe here (only one)

3.2 PATIENT ALIVE

a) Still in this hospital now (28 days after randomisation) – Date

b) Discharged to another hospital – Date of discharge

c) Discharged home – Date of discharge

3.3 IF ALIVE – DISABILITY RATING SCALE (tick one response for each box) – see overleaf for guidance

a) **EYE OPENING**
 Spontaneous
 To Speech
 To Pain
 None

b) **COMMUNICATION ABILITY**
 Oriented
 Confused
 Inappropriate
 Incomprehensible
 None

c) **MOTOR RESPONSE**
 Obeying
 Localizing
 Withdrawing
 Flexing
 Extending
 None

d) **FEEDING** (cognitive ability only)
 Complete
 Partial
 Minimal
 None

e) **TOILETING** (cognitive ability only)
 Complete
 Partial
 Minimal
 None

f) **GROOMING** (cognitive ability only)
 Complete
 Partial
 Minimal
 None

g) **LEVEL OF FUNCTIONING** (physical, mental, emotional or social function)
 Completely independent
 Independent in special environment
 Mildly dependent – limited assistance
 Moderately dependent – moderate assistance
 Markedly dependent – assist all major activities, all times
 Totally dependent – 24-hour nursing care

h) **EMPLOYABILITY** (as a full time worker, homemaker, or student)
 Not restricted
 Selected jobs, competitive
 Sheltered workshop, non-competitive
 Not employable

3.4 IF ALIVE: Assessed by doctor/nurse/relative based on their knowledge of the patient, or patient if able (tick one response for each box)

SEE GUIDANCE OVERLEAF

a) **WALKING**
 No problems
 Some problems
 Confined to bed

b) **WASHING / DRESSING**
 No problems
 Some problems
 Unable

c) **PAIN / DISCOMFORT**
 None
 Moderate
 Extreme

d) **ANXIETY / DEPRESSION**
 None
 Moderate
 Extreme

e) **AGITATION / AGGRESSION**
 None
 Moderate
 Extreme

f) **FATIGUE**
 None
 Moderate
 Extreme

4. MANAGEMENT

a) DAYS IN INTENSIVE CARE UNIT (if no ICU or not admitted to ICU, write '0' here)

b) TYPE OF NEUROSURGICAL OPERATION

i) Haematoma evacuation YES NO

ii) Other YES NO

c) BLOOD LOSS DURING NEUROSURGICAL OPERATION

Estimated Volume (ml)

5. TRIAL TREATMENT

a) Loading dose given YES NO

b) Maintenance dose given YES NO

6. COMPLICATIONS (circle one option on every line)

Pulmonary embolism	YES	NO
Deep vein thrombosis	YES	NO
Stroke	YES	NO
Myocardial infarction	YES	NO
Renal failure	YES	NO
Sepsis	YES	NO
Seizure	YES	NO
Gastro intestinal bleeding	YES	NO

7. OTHER COMPLICATIONS YES NO

IF YES, REPORT AS PER PROTOCOL USING ADVERSE EVENT FORM

8. PERSON COMPLETING FORM

a) Name b) Position


c) Signature d) Date

THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL DATA SUBMITTED

Protocol Code: ISRCTN15088122 Outcome form version 1.0 dated 1 October 2011

- No extra tests required – a short single page Outcome form completed 4 weeks (28 days) after randomisation, at discharge, or at death (whichever occurs first)
- Outcome to be collected even if the trial treatment is interrupted or is not actually given
- Form to be sent to the TCC as soon as possible

Adverse Event

Hospital ID Code	<input type="text"/>	Hospital Name	<input type="text"/>	
Randomisation number	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
TRIAL TITLE: Tranexamic acid for the treatment of significant traumatic brain injury: an international randomised, double blind, placebo controlled trial				
ADVERSE EVENT REPORT FORM				
Please report on this form any adverse event occurring up to 28 days after randomisation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please refer to the Protocol / Study file for events which need to be reported while the patient is in the hospital. After discharge and up to 28 days after randomisation ALL untoward events must be reported on this form. 				
1. REPORT TYPE (circle)	Initial	Follow-up	2. COUNTRY	<input type="text"/>
I. ADVERSE EVENT INFORMATION				
3. DO YOU KNOW DATE OF BIRTH	a) YES	day	month	year
	b) NO – approximate age	years		
4. SEX PLEASE CIRCLE	MALE	FEMALE		
5. ADVERSE EVENT IN MEDICAL TERMS (diagnosis if possible)				MedDRA Code
6. Is the event due to progression of underlying illness? (circle)				NO YES
7. ONSET OF FIRST SIGNS/SYMPTOMS OF AE		day	month	year
8. SERIOUSNESS CRITERIA (tick all appropriate to event)		<input type="checkbox"/> NONE OF THE FOLLOWING: Does not fulfil serious criteria Please send this page only (page 1) to the Coordinating Centre as soon as possible		
<input type="checkbox"/> Patient died <input type="checkbox"/> Involved or prolonged in-patient hospitalisation <input type="checkbox"/> Results in persistent or significant disability / incapacity <input type="checkbox"/> Life-threatening <input type="checkbox"/> Congenital abnormality / birth defect <input type="checkbox"/> Other, medically important		If any of the serious criteria is ticked, send all 3 pages to the trial coordinating centre within 24 hours.		
9. ASSESSMENT OF CAUSALITY [NOT SUSPECTED OR SUSPECTED] (Relationship to study drug)		10. OUTCOME OF THE PATIENT / AE / SAE		
<input type="checkbox"/> NOT SUSPECTED TO BE RELATED TO TRANEXAMIC ACID / PLACEBO BECAUSE OF <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic disease / pre-existing condition Intercurrent disease Concomitant medication Non-drug therapy / intervention Prior to randomisation Other non-drug cause, specify: 		<input type="checkbox"/> Completely recovered, date of recovery: day month year <input type="checkbox"/> Recovered with sequelae <input type="checkbox"/> Condition improving <input type="checkbox"/> Condition still present and unchanged <input type="checkbox"/> Condition deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Death		
<input type="checkbox"/> SUSPECTED TO BE RELATED TO TRANEXAMIC ACID / PLACEBO: Please state reason for causality assessment:		11. INFORMATION SOURCE FOR NON-SERIOUS ADVERSE EVENT		
		a) Investigator name:		
		c) Signature:		
		d) Date reported: day month year		

- Death, life-threatening complications and prolonged hospital stay are pre-specified outcomes.
- Adverse events will be limited to serious events that are NOT already listed as primary or secondary outcomes, yet, which might reasonably occur as a consequence of the study drug.
- Events that are part of the natural history of the primary event, or expected complications of critical medical events, should not be reported as serious adverse events e.g. low blood pressure, increased intracranial pressure and reduced urine output associated with TBI.

**After discharge and up to Day 28
all untoward medical occurrences should be reported**

Sending your data

Internet: Primary data collection is to be done via internet

A username and password to use this site will be sent to you by email before you start the trial.

Email: as scanned documents



Trial Materials

BEFORE YOU START THE TRIAL YOU WILL RECEIVE:

- a study file compiled specifically for your hospital, containing contact details, further information, guidance, spare forms and filing space for completed data forms
- training CD with PowerPoint presentations
- training DVD of the trial procedures and a protocol presentation
- randomisation posters with step by step guidance
- brief information leaflets and wall posters for the families

PROTOCOLS

- protocol summaries
- pocket cards

TREATMENT PACKS

- Initially one box of 8 patient packs
- Stock level is monitored by patient entries received at the TCC
- We will send new boxes when you reach your minimum stock level, which is dependent on your randomisation rate
- With each box you will receive a document pack containing your hospital specific patient information sheets, consent forms, alert cards and brief information leaflets

TRAINING AND PRESENTATIONS

Please contact the TCC if

- you need more training materials for staff sessions
- you are presenting the trial at meetings or conferences

Trial Materials





LONDON
SCHOOL of
HYGIENE
& TROPICAL
MEDICINE



If a simple and widely practicable treatment was shown to improve outcomes in patients with TBI, it could save many thousands of lives

Join us now at crash3.Lshtm.ac.uk

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