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# Emergency Medicine Pharmacotherapy with Resuscitation (EMPowerRx) Conference



# Tranexamic Acid in the Trauma Patient

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# Disclosure

- I have nothing to disclose

# Objectives

- Review the etiology and pathophysiology of trauma induced coagulopathy
- Recall the pharmacology of tranexamic acid (TXA)
- Analyze the literature regarding the use of TXA in trauma patients

# Acute Coagulopathy of Trauma

Hemorrhage is the most preventable cause of death and accounts for ~40% of all trauma deaths

Complex multifactorial process

Mediated by tissue hypoperfusion and direct activation of protein c pathway

1/3 of injured patients are coagulopathic

4-fold increase in mortality

# Question

Hemorrhage is the most common cause of preventable death after trauma

- True
- False

# Pharmacology of TXA

1986

- FDA approved for prevention or reduction of bleeding in patients with hemophilia undergoing dental procedures

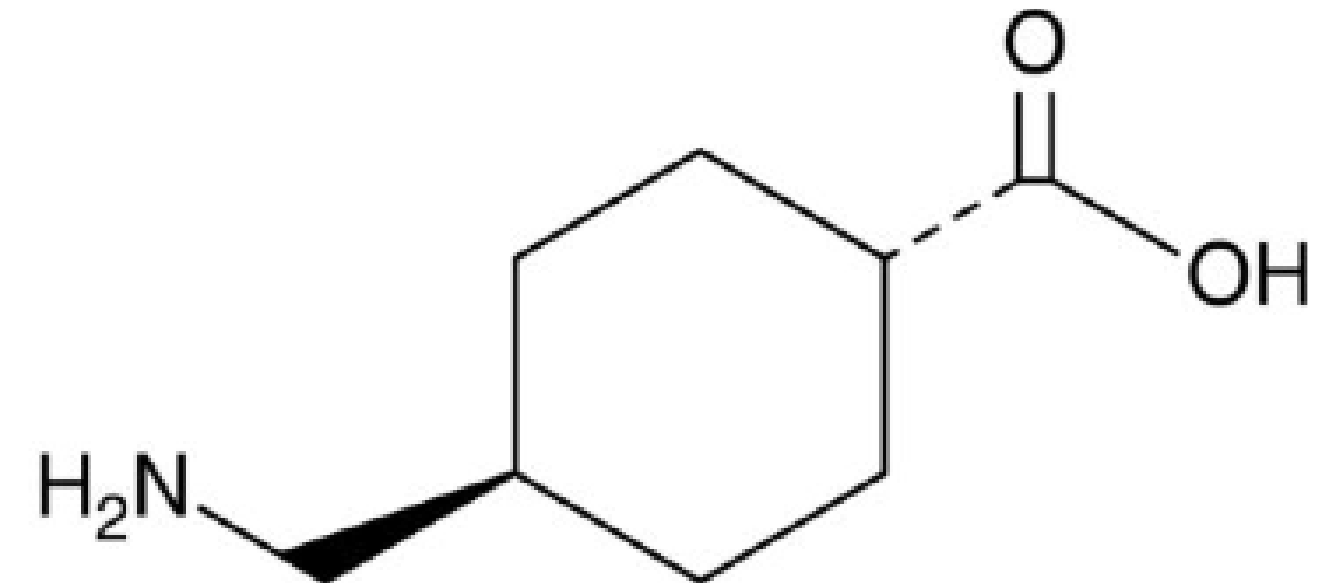
Class

- Antifibrinolytic

MOA

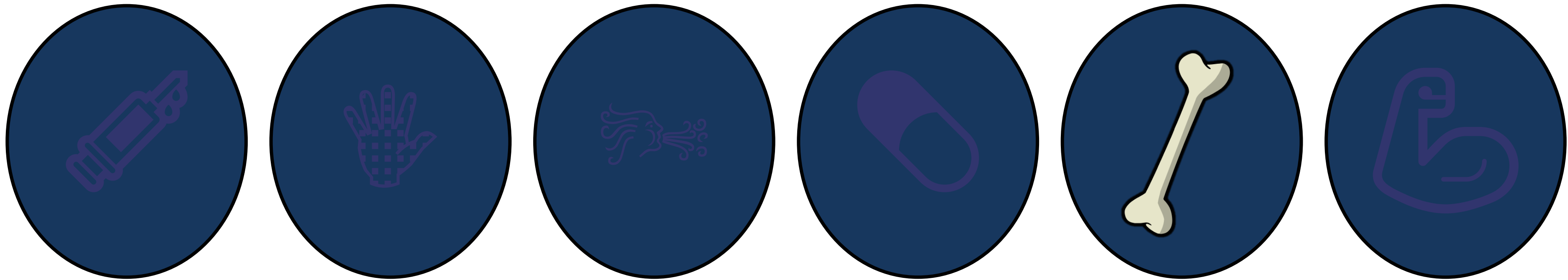
- Inhibition of both plasminogen activation and plasmin activity

**Trans-4-(aminomethyl)cyclohexanecarboxylic acid**



**TXA End Game:**  
Prevent clot breakdown and stabilize existing clots

# Pharmacotherapy Considerations of TXA



# Potential Side Effects

Thromboembolic  
risk

Seizures

Hypotension  
associated with  
faster  
administration rate



**TXA?**

- Who?
- What?
- When?
- Where?
- Why?
- How?

# Question

TXA promotes clot formation

- True
- False

TXA does not promote clot formation, rather it prevents clot breakdown

# CRASH-2

Clinical Randomization of an Antifibrinolytic in Significant Hemorrhage



20,211 patients



Death within 4  
weeks of injury



# CRASH-2 Trial Results

| Outcomes            | TXA<br>(n = 10,060) | Placebo<br>(n = 10,067) | RR (95% CI)        | P value |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|---------|
| All cause mortality | 1,463 (14.5%)       | 1,613 (16%)             | 0.91 (0.85 - 0.97) | 0.0035  |

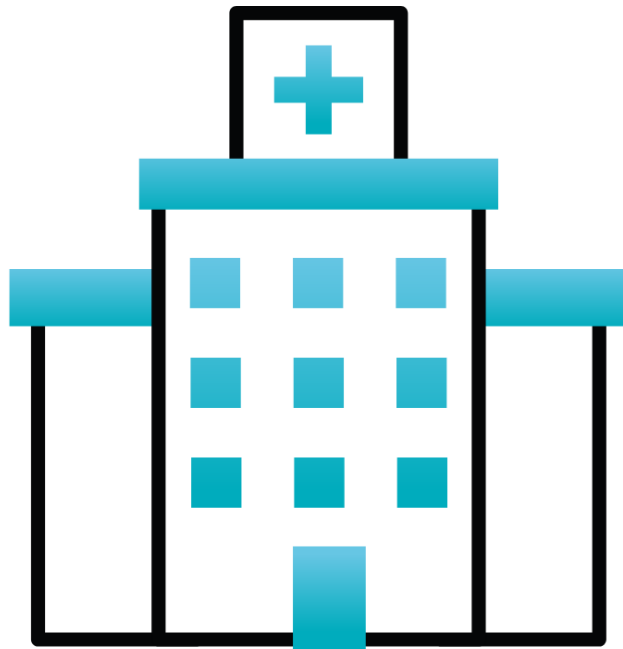
An exploratory analysis comparing time to treatment and death due to bleeding found that patients treated with TXA within 3 hours had a decreased risk of death due to bleeding while patients treated with TXA greater than 3 hours had an increased risk of death due to bleeding.

|                          |               |               |                       |       |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|-------|
| occlusive event          | 168 (1.7%)    | 201 (2%)      | (0.68 – 1.02)         | 0.004 |
| Blood product transfused | 5,067 (50.4%) | 5,160 (51.3%) | 0.98<br>(0.96 – 1.01) | 0.21  |

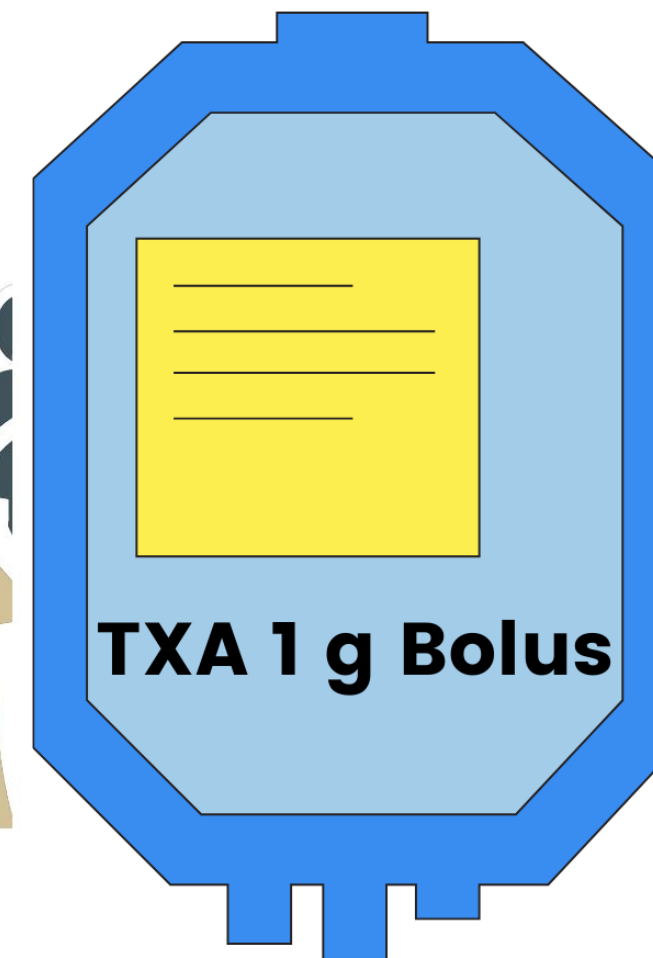
# MATTERs Trial

**Military Application of Tranexamic Acid in Trauma Emergency Resuscitation**

**Camp Bastion**



**896 patients**



**Death at  
24 hours, 48 hours,  
and 30 days**



# MATTERs Trial Results

| Overall Cohort of Patients (Mortality, %)  |               |                  |         |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|---------|
| Outcomes                                   | TXA (n = 296) | No TXA (n = 603) | p value |
| Mortality < 24 hours                       | 293 (9.6%)    | 603 (12.4%)      | 0.2     |
| Mortality < 48 hours                       | 264 (11.3%)   | 507 (18.9%)      | 0.004   |
| In hospital mortality                      | 264 (17.4%)   | 603 (23.9%)      | 0.03    |
| TXA and Massive Transfusion (Mortality, %) |               |                  |         |
|                                            | TXA (n = 125) | No TXA (n = 196) |         |
| Mortality < 24 hours                       | 125 (9.6%)    | 196 (14.8%)      | 0.17    |
| Mortality < 48 hours                       | 112 (10.4%)   | 160 (23.5%)      | 0.003   |
| In hospital mortality                      | 125 (14.4%)   | 196 (28.1%)      | 0.004   |

| Overall Cohort of Patients  |               |                  |         |
|-----------------------------|---------------|------------------|---------|
| Adverse Events              | TXA (n = 296) | No TXA (n = 603) | p value |
| DVT                         | 7 (2.4%)      | 1 (0.2%)         | 0.001   |
| PE                          | 8 (2.7%)      | 2 (0.3%)         | 0.001   |
| TXA and Massive Transfusion |               |                  |         |
|                             | TXA (n = 125) | No TXA (n = 196) | p value |
| DVT                         | 2 (1.6%)      | 1 (0.5%)         | 0.32    |
| PE                          | 4 (3.2%)      | 0                | 0.01    |

# Do all Trauma Patients Benefit from TXA?



**300 patients**



**Does early routine use of TXA in critically injured trauma patients improve outcomes?**

# Results

97 min

- Median time to TXA administered after arrival (range 0 – 886 minutes)

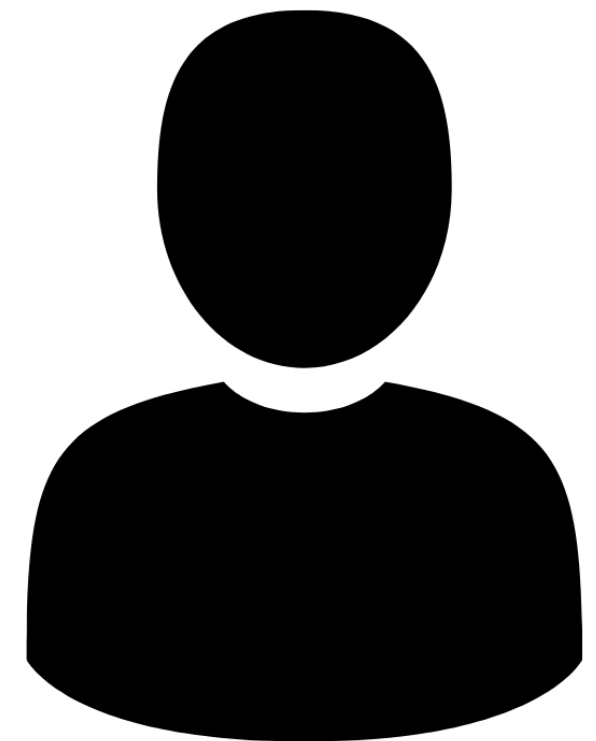
Mortality

- 27% in the TXA group versus 17% in the no TXA group ( $p = 0.024$ )

Conclusions

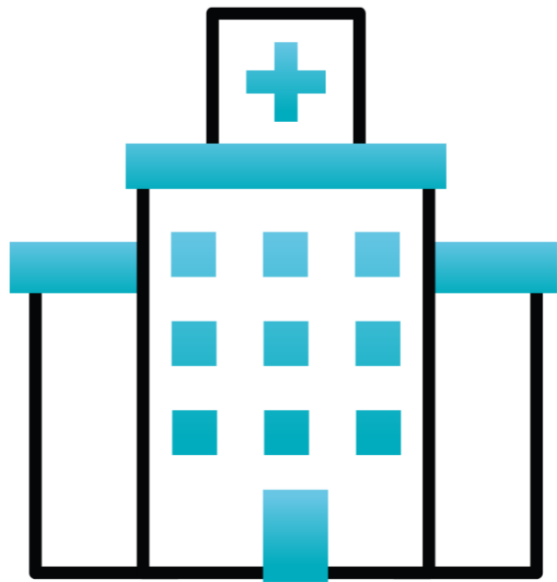
- No effect on mortality across all subgroups

**150 patients**



# TXA Use in Severely Injured Civilian Patients and the Effects on Outcomes

**Urban Trauma  
Center**



**385 patients**



**Effect of TXA on  
mortality**



# Results

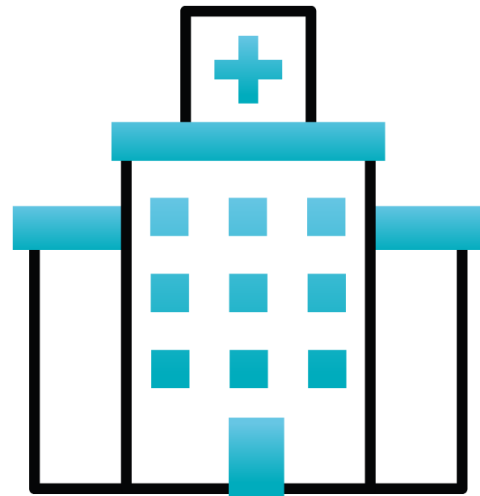
| Outcomes                    | No TXA<br>(n = 225) | TXA<br>(n = 160) | No Shock<br>No TXA<br>(n = 178) | No Shock<br>TXA<br>(n = 76) | Shock<br>No TXA<br>(n = 47) | Shock TXA<br>(n = 84) |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Mortality<br>≤ 48 hours (%) | 18 (8)              | 13 (8)           | 10 (6)                          | 4 (5)                       | 8 (15)                      | 9 (11)                |
| Mortality<br>> 48 hours (%) | 18 (8)              | 17 (11)          | 15 (9)                          | 7 (9)                       | 4 (8)                       | 9 (11)                |
| VTE (%)                     | 9 (4)               | 8 (5)            | 7 (4)                           | 1 (1)                       | 2 (2)                       | 7 (8)*                |
| Stroke (%)                  | 3 (1)               | 5 (3)            | 1 (1)                           | 1 (1)                       | 2 (4)                       | 4 (5)                 |
| MI (%)                      | 3 (1)               | 3 (2)            | 1 (1)                           | 0                           | 2 (4)                       | 3 (4)                 |

\*p<0.05

Cole E. Ann Surg. 2015; 261: 390–394.

# Does Liberal Pre-hospital and In-hospital TXA Influence Outcome in Severely Injured Patients?

University Medical  
Center, Utrecht



422 patients



Effect of TXA on  
morbidity and mortality



# Results

| Outcomes                             | TXA<br>(n = 280) | No TXA<br>(n = 142) | p value |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------|
| Mortality                            | 56 (20)          | 23 (16)             | 0.36    |
| Thrombo-<br>embolic<br>complications | 25 (9)           | 7 (5)               | 0.18    |

# Question

It is recommended to use TXA at any time after a trauma has occurred

- True
- False

TXA should be used within 3 hours of injury

# TXA in Traumatic Brain Injury



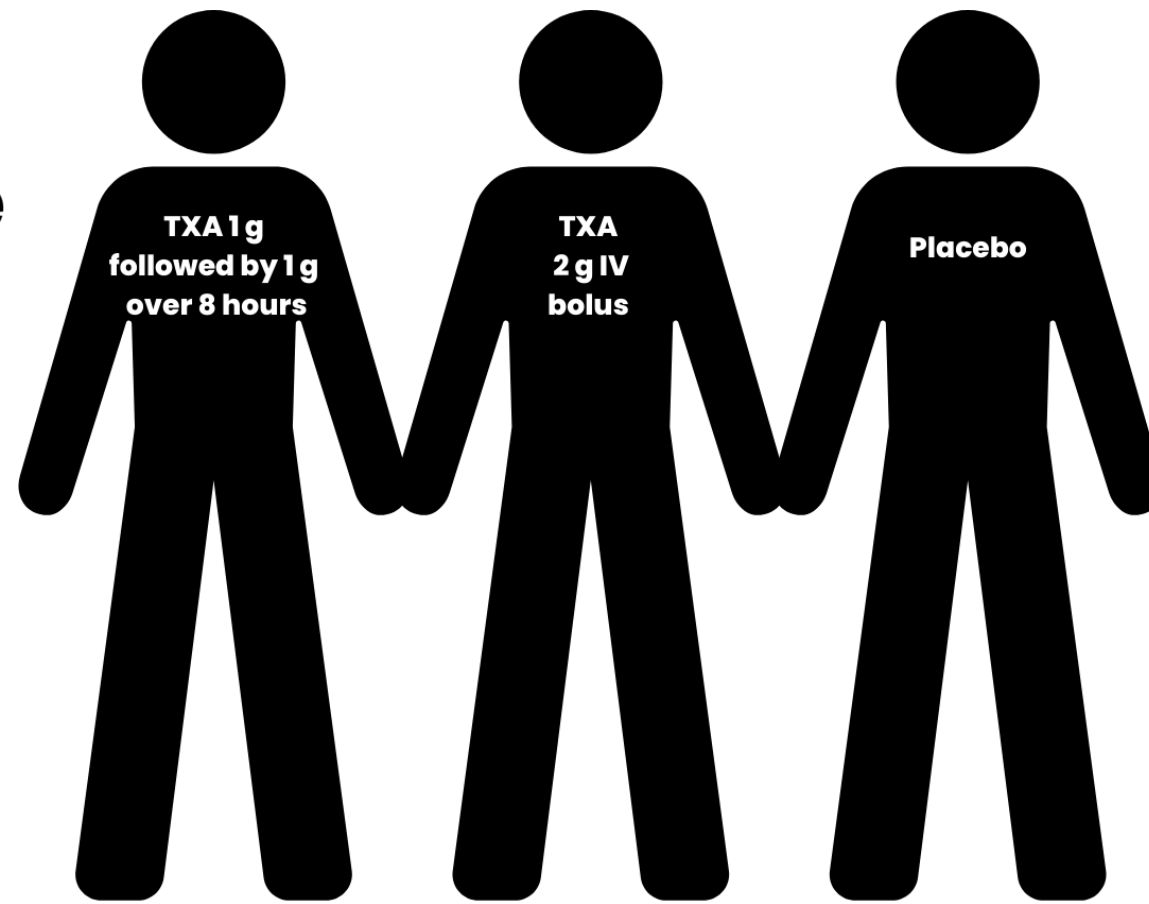
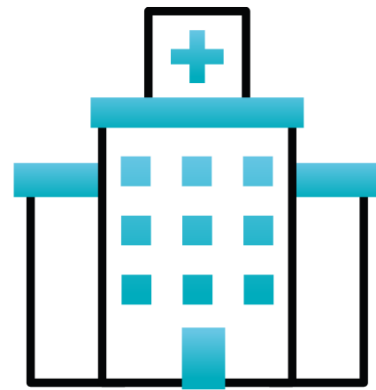
**Death within  
28 days of  
injury**



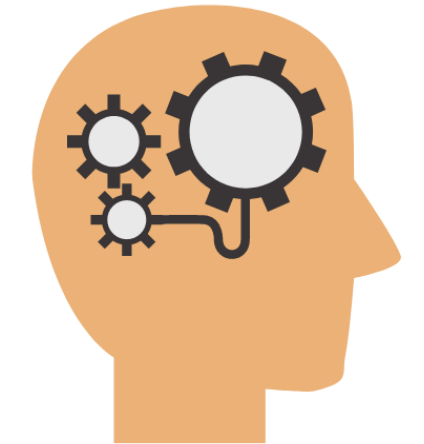
**Results: Reduction in death in the mild-to-moderate head injury group when compared to placebo; however, not seen in patients with severe head injury**

# Effect of Out-of-Hospital TXA in TBI

**12 regions in the  
US and Canada**



**Functional  
Neurological Outcome  
at 6 months**



**Results: No significant difference in 6-month neurological outcome**

# Addition of TXA to a Traumatic Injury Massive Transfusion Protocol



- Boston Medical Center



- Training and education, guideline development, and order sets

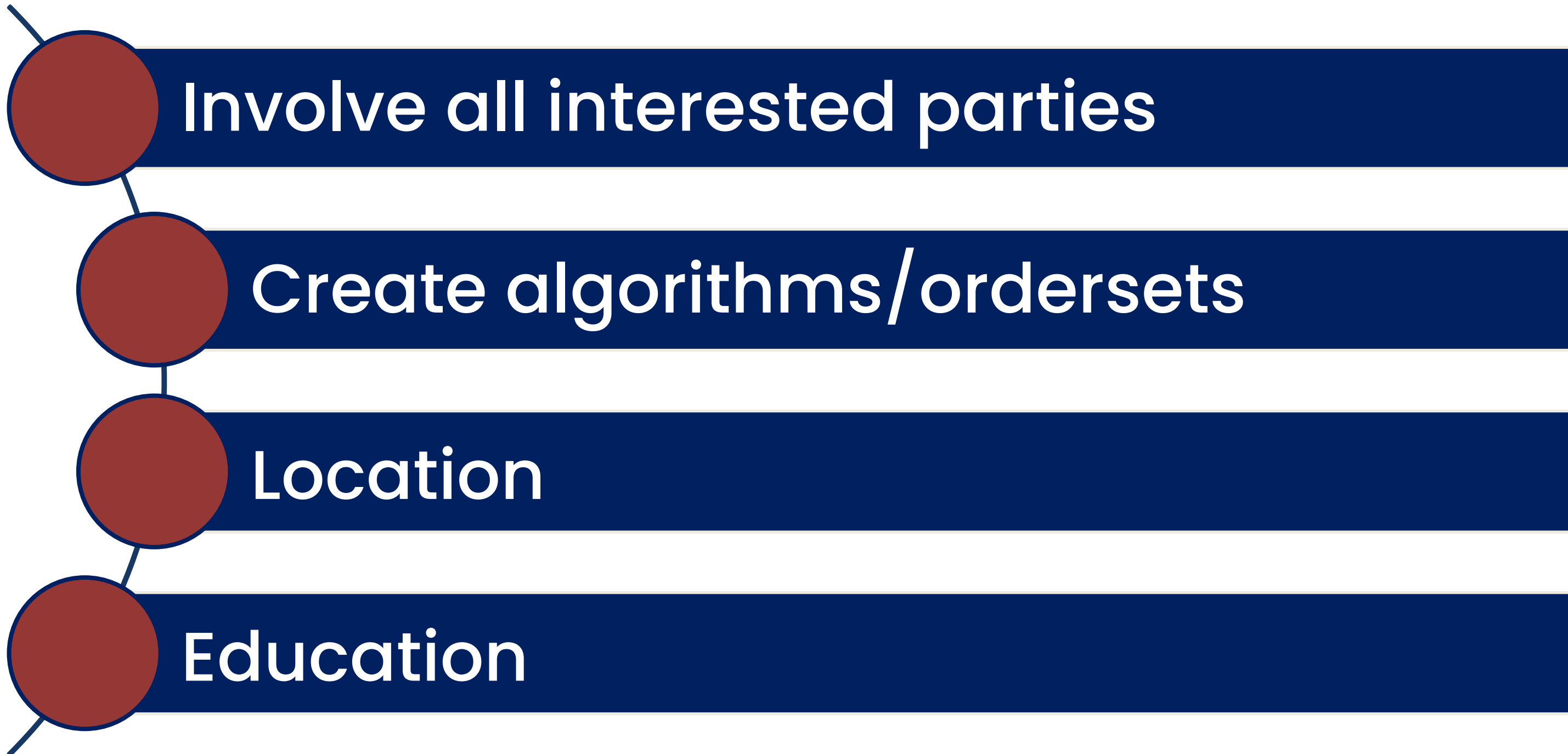


- 16 month analysis



- Multidisciplinary collaboration and standardization increased use of TXA in trauma patients requiring MTP

# Logistical Considerations



# Conclusions

- TXA is an antifibrinolytic agent that may be used in trauma for patients who present with hemorrhagic shock
- TXA should be administered within 3 hours of injury
- TXA administered more than 3 hours from injury should be avoided
- Role of TXA in advanced trauma centers remains to be elucidated



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# Questions?

Thank You

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