

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **British scientists call for participation in a large scale randomized controlled trial on antifibrinolytic agents in traumatic hemorrhage**

ZAGREB – Great Britain calls for participation in an international research on effects of antifibrinolytic agents in prevention and treatment of bleeding after a major trauma, Croatian Medical Journal reports in its February issue.

For people 5 to 45 years old trauma is, after HIV/AIDS, the second cause of death. Each year, worldwide, over three million people die as a result of trauma, many after reaching hospital. Among trauma patients who do survive long enough to reach hospital, profuse bleeding is a common cause of death. Improvement of existing methods of prevention and treatment of traumatic hemorrhage is therefore an urgent need.

Systemic antifibrinolytic agents (mainly aprotinin or tranexamic acid) are widely used in major surgery. Recent systematic review of 89 randomized controlled trials showed that these treatments significantly reduce the number of patients needing transfusion, volume of blood needed per transfusion and the need for further surgery to control bleeding. Because the haemostatic abnormalities that occur after injury are similar to those after surgery, it is possible that antifibrinolytic agents would be beneficial for trauma patients also. However, to date there has been only one small randomized controlled trial of the effect of antifibrinolytic

agents in major trauma. As a result, there is insufficient evidence to either support or refute a clinically important treatment effect.

Large scale international, placebo controlled trial CRASH-2 is therefore launched to examine the effects of early administration of the antifibrinolytic agent tranexamic acid on death, vascular events and transfusion requirements in trauma patients. The trial aims to recruit some 20,000 patients and will be one of the largest trauma trials ever conducted. However, such a trial would only be possible if hundreds of healthcare professionals get actively involved in the project to make it a success.

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