

Letter to the Editor

Tranexamic Acid in Hip and Knee Arthroplasty

To the Editor: I read with interest the article by Melvin et al.¹ The authors did a wonderful job identifying the indications where tranexamic acid can be used. However, if one goes through the details of the article, the authors have missed reporting on the use of tranexamic acid in bilateral simultaneous knee replacement surgeries. Bilateral simultaneous-sequential knee replacement surgeries have numerous advantages compared with the bilateral staggered procedure; these include shorter hospitalization, shorter duration of anesthesia, less time in physical rehabilitation, and fewer wound infections, resulting in more cost-effective treatment.^{2,3} There have been at least three randomized studies in the past 4 years proving the cost effectiveness of the procedure.⁴⁻⁶

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The Author Replies: We thank Dr. Anand for his interest in our recent article. We acknowledge Dr. Anand's points on the advantages of bilateral simultaneous knee replacement in appropriately selected patients. Additionally, as would be expected, bilateral simultaneous knee replacement has been associated with higher total blood loss compared with unilateral procedures. The results of the two recent randomized controlled trials and the recent case-control study referenced by Dr. Anand support the fact that intravenous tranexamic acid reduces blood loss and, ultimately,

transfusions in bilateral procedures, as well.⁴⁻⁶ Unfortunately, because of the word and reference limitations required for our focused review, we were unable to include a specific section on the topic of tranexamic acid in bilateral procedures.

We thank Dr. Anand for highlighting this topic as well as noting the early evidence of the success of tranexamic acid for bilateral procedures. We look forward to future studies shedding further light on this topic, especially as it relates to dosing regimens for bilateral procedures.

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