Aminocaproic Acid in the Treatment of Bleeding Disorders

Aminocaproic acid (Amicar®) helps to prevent the breakdown of blood clots. It is most useful with mucous membrane bleeding (nose, mouth, and gastrointestinal tract) and generally not useful with joint bleeding or internal bleeding.

Your child’s doctor wants your child to have ________________________ (medication and amount) every ____________________ (how often).

How to give:

[ ] Liquid/Syrup – Use an oral syringe to draw up the amount of medication needed. Give the medicine to your child. Be sure your child swallows the medicine.

[ ] Tablets – Have your child swallow as directed. Tablets can be crushed and mixed with a liquid.

[ ] Intravenous (IV) – If your child is unable to swallow, aminocaproic acid can be given into a vein as directed by your child’s health care provider.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

- Aminocaproic acid can be taken with or without food. Give aminocaproic acid with food if your child develops an upset stomach.
- It is important to take the medication exactly as directed by your doctor.
- The amount of aminocaproic acid your child takes will change as your child’s weight changes.
- It needs to be taken every 6 hours (6 a.m., noon, 6 p.m., and midnight), and NOT the usual way (morning, noon, evening and bedtime) that most 4 times-per-day medications are given.
- If you miss a dose of aminocaproic acid, give it as soon as you remember and contact your pharmacist or doctor.
- Do not give aminocaproic acid for kidney or bladder bleeding unless directed by your doctor.
- Aminocaproic acid should be used with caution in patients with heart, kidney or liver disease.

SIDE EFFECTS:

Common side effects – do not need to be reported:

- Mild upset stomach
- Mild diarrhea
- Mild headache
The following side effects MUST be reported immediately – call your child’s hematology doctor or nurse if your child has:

- Skin rash
- Chest pain
- Difficulty breathing
- Slurred speech
- Vomiting

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- Let your child’s doctor, pharmacist and other health care providers know if your child is taking other medications or is allergic to any medication.
- Tell your child's doctor and pharmacist if your child is taking any vitamins, herbal products or nutritional supplements.
- Keep the medication in the original container and store it exactly as instructed.
- Keep this medication out of the reach of children.
- Call your child’s doctor or pharmacist before giving your child any over-the-counter medication.

Call your child’s hematology nurse or doctor immediately at (816) 234-3265 (Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) or (816) 234-3000 (after hours, and on weekends or holidays), and ask the operator to page the Hematology/Oncology nurse or doctor "on-call" if:

- Your child has any of the side effects listed above.
- You have questions or concerns regarding your child’s health or this medication.

Call 911 or take your child to the nearest emergency room if your child has:

- Chest pain
- Difficulty breathing
- Slurred speech

Call the Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222 if:

- Too much medication is taken.
- Medication is accidentally taken.