Post tonsillectomy haemorrhage

Calculating blood volume: adult: 60ml/kg, child 70-80ml/kg

Post op analgesia adults: Celebrex 200mg 12 hourly PRN, paracetamol 15mg/kg/dose 4-6 hourly PRN maximum 60mg/kg/day, Treat breakthrough pain with oxycodone IR 5-10mg 4-6 hourly PRN

Post op analgesia children: paracetamol 15mg/kg/dose 4-6 hourly PRN maximum 60mg/kg/day, celecoxib liquid 10mg/ml, 4mg/kg/dose 12 hourly PRN, treat breakthrough pain with oxycodone syrup 1mg/ml 0.1mg/kg per dose, 4-6 hourly PRN

See post tonsil pain protocol

To minimise risk of bleeding:

Good pain relief to allow patient to eat as normally as possible, no sport/work 2 weeks post op, avoid medications that increase risk of bleeding (non selective NSAIDS, aspirin, complimentary medicines)

Safety advice to patient: stay within one hour of a hospital for 2 weeks after surgery. If bleeding occurs: sit quietly, suck on ice or icy pole, wait 5 minutes, if bleeding doesn’t cease call an ambulance and attend nearest ED

Tranexamic acid 15mg/kg IV tds or 25mg/kg orally tds

Phenoxymethylpenicillin 25-50mg/kg/day in 2-4 divided doses (half hour before food or 2 hours after food)

Benzylpenicillin adults 1.2g IV 6 hourly

Cophenylcaine: read label for maximum number of sprays for age of patient

Nil orally 1 hour

Observe 2-4 hours

Tranexamic acid and Penicillin stat

Continue post op pain relief

Discharge if no further bleeding

no

Tranexamic acid tds 5 days

Penicillin orally qid 5 days

Continue post op pain relief

Normal diet

Rest at home for 48 hours

Return to ED if bleeding recurs

Send letter to surgeon and review with surgeon at next scheduled appointment or within 7 days

Continue IV or oral penicillin and tranexamic acid

Clear fluids next 4 hours

Resume diet after 8 hours

Discharge at 24 hours post last bleed

Post theatre

Eat and drink

Continue oral penicillin and tranexamic acid

Discharge at 24 hours post last bleed

Yes

More bleeding?

Resuscitate IV FBE G&H IV fluid

 Ring surgical registrar ASAP to assess

Likely plan for theatre

Cophenylcaine to fossa

Tranexamic acid and Penicillin stat

Nil orally

Continue post op analgesia protocol

Ring surgical registrar

Admit

IV FBE G&H IV fluid

Rest in bed

Nil orally 4 hours

Tranexamic acid tds

Penicillin IV qid

Continue post op analgesia protocol

Yes

No

<5yo or <15kg

Bleed <250 ml or <5% blood volume no blood visible in fossa Haemodynamically stable

Bleed 250 to 450 ml or 5-10% of blood volume and clot in fossa Haemodynamically stable

Bleed > 450 ml or 10% of blood volume or active bleeding or haemodynamically unstable