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Management of Dental Extraction in a Female Patient with Fanconi Anemia

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Abstract

Oral surgery in patients with bleeding disorders is associated with a high risk of bleeding during and after surgery. This article is aimed to present the case of an eight-year-old girl suffering from severe Fanconi anemia with pancytopenia who underwent a dental extraction. The hemostatic effect of local administration of tranexamic acid in combination with a primary suture seems to be extremely helpful in order to reduce the necessity of blood products and the risk of postoperative bleeding.

Key Words: Surgery; Fanconi Anemia; Pancytopenia; Tranexamic Acid

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INTRODUCTION

Fanconi anemia (FA) is a rare autosomal recessive disorder characterized by congenital malformations, progressive bone marrow hypoplasia, and a high risk of malignancies. The existing literature describes occurrence frequency of FA with approximately 1:360,000 [1] with a female-to-male ratio of 1:2 [2]. Fifteen genetic subtypes can be distinguished: FA-A, -B, -C, -D1, -D2, -E, -F, -G, -I, -J, -L, -M, -N, -O, and -P. The majority of FA patients (~85%) belong to subtypes A (~60%), C (~10–15%), or G (~10%), while a minority (~15%) is distributed over the remaining 12 subtypes [3]. Cells of FA patients are characteristically sensitive to chromosome breakage by DNA cross-linking agents [4].

The diagnosis is usually made between the age of 5 and 10 years [5]. Whereas, one third of the affected patients do not have any obvious abnormalities, in the majority of cases, physical signs, such as abnormal skin pigmentation, short stature, thumb and radial anomalies, structural renal defects, microcephaly, and delayed development are recognizable at birth and during early childhood.

The most frequent oral manifestations are gingivitis, periodontitis, rotated teeth, and dental agenesis [6]. The high prevalence of periodontal diseases and gingivitis may be related to frequent immune system deficiencies, anemia and leukopenia. However, patients affected by FA often display deficits in their oral hygiene as well [7].



Fig 1. Physical examination: skin hypopigmented areas and hypertrichosis. Photograph of the entire body of the patient shows scoliosis.

Furthermore, they are predisposed to the development of squamous cell carcinoma (SCC), especially in the oral cavity [8].

Many FA patients experience bone marrow failure, which is generally characterized by an increasing pancytopenia, often initially with thrombocytopenia or leukopenia. In general, bone marrow transplantation is currently the most effective treatment to cure severe aplastic anemia or acute myeloid leukemia and the myelodysplastic syndrome [9]. All patients designated for transplantation should be examined for presence of any active infection. Dentists should carefully exam the oral situation within the pre-transplant evaluation. Decayed teeth have to be restored and destroyed teeth must be removed before transplantation. It is difficult to find the optimal management for patients with FA when they need oral surgery, because of their susceptibility to infections and pancytopenia. The following report discusses the management of such a patient, who underwent a dental extraction.

CASE REPORT

The patient was an eight-year-old Syrian girl (body weight, 28 kilograms; body height, 127 centimeters).

Diagnosed with FA, she was referred to our clinic to evaluate her dental health before planning bone marrow transplantation. Her parents and her siblings (9- and 11-year-old brothers) were not affected by the disease.

The physical examination showed a young girl with clinical signs of FA including skin hypopigmented areas, hypertrichosis, scoliosis, abnormal ribs and multiple hematomas in the region of the thighs (Fig 1).

The hexadactyly of her left hand was surgically corrected three months after birth. The oral examination revealed several decayed teeth (Fig 2 and 3).

In the lower jaw 74, 75, 84 and 85 were totally destroyed by caries and therefore, indicated for extraction.

The results of the laboratory tests are mentioned in Table 1.

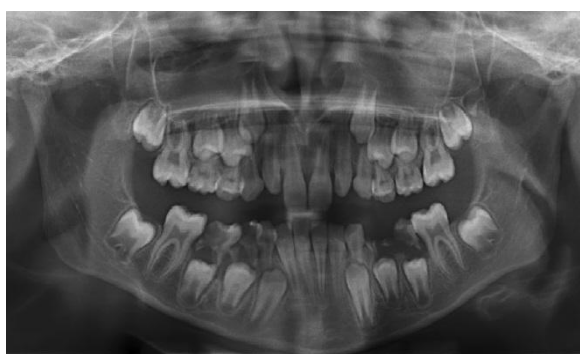


Fig 2. Panoramic radiograph before dental treatment



Fig 3. Preoperative photograph. Teeth number 74 and 75 are completely destroyed.

The most noticeable aspect was the severe thrombocytopenia (5,000/ μ L). A mild hypersensitivity reaction after platelet transfusion in the past was recorded in her file.

Preparation of dental treatment was carried out in close cooperation with the Hematology Oncology Unit of our hospital. Due to the FA related severe thrombocytopenia, a platelet concentrate was necessary to raise the platelet count above 50,000/ μ L. After the intravenous (IV) premedication with 50 mg glucocorticoid (prednisolone) and 3 mg antihistaminic agent (dimetinden), which was required to avoid another transfusion reaction, a single unit of leuko-depleted and irradiated apheresis platelets, was given intravenously. A platelet count of 75,000/ μ L was achieved. The treatment was performed under general anesthesia to avoid age-related noncompliance. Prophylactic antibiotic treatment using 1.5 g ampicillin/sulbactam IV (ampicillin HEXAL® comp, Hexal, Holzkirchen, Germany) was given to reduce the risk of postoperative infection.

A buccal infiltration using a total of 2.0 mL of 4.0% articain with adrenaline 1:200,000 (Ul-tracain D-S, Sanofi-Aventis, Paris, France) was conducted for local anaesthesia.

We started with the restorative treatment of teeth 54, 65, 16, 26, 36 and 46.

Following that, 74, 75, 84 and 85 were extracted. The sockets were immediately covered with tranexamic acid (TA) (Cyklokapron, Meda Pharma, Bad Homburg, Germany) and closed with a 4x0 resorbable suture (Vicryl, Ethicon Johnson & Johnson, New Brunswick, USA) (Fig 4 and 5).

Gauzes saturated with TA were placed onto the teeth sockets for five minutes. Following this protocol, an excellent hemostasis was achieved. The patient was kept in hospital for observation. Gauzes saturated with TA were applied for local hemostasis during the following three days to avoid any late postoperative bleeding caused by early fibrinolysis and hyperfibrinolysis. Postoperative pain was controlled by paracetamol.

Table 1. Laboratory Findings

| | Reference range | Findings |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| White blood cells | 4,3-11,4x10 ³ / μ L | 2,0x10 ³ / μ L |
| Red blood cells | 3,9-5,0x10 ⁶ / μ L | 3,5*10 ⁶ / μ L |
| Hemoglobin | 6,6-8,2 mmol/L | 6,3 mmol/L |
| Hematocrit | 0,32-0,40 | 0,28 |
| Platelets | 150.000-400.000/ μ L | 5.000/ μ L |
| INR | 0,8-1,2 | 0,9 |
| Partial thromboplastin time | 30-50 s | 35 s |



Fig 5. Perioperative photograph. The teeth sockets 74 and 75 after elevation and flooded with TA.

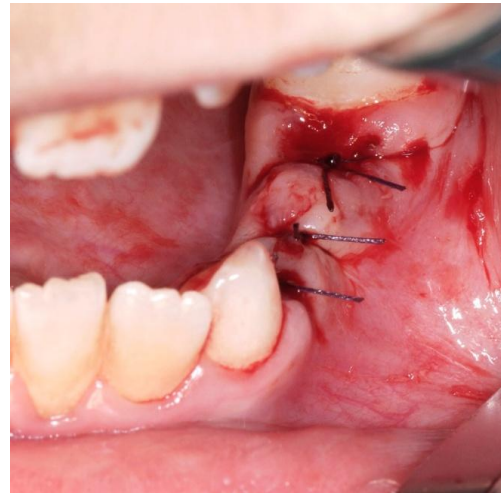


Fig 4. Immediate postoperative photograph. The sockets are closed with resorbable suture

The diet (consisted of cool liquids followed by semi-solid food for 3 days after operation. No postoperative bleeding appeared during the observational period.

The platelet count was observed after surgery. No further blood products were necessary despite a decrease to 6,000/ μ L on the sixth day after operation.

DISCUSSION

The predominant symptom of FA is the progressive bone marrow failure usually during early childhood with increasing pancytopenia, often initial with thrombocytopenia or leukopenia. Because of the important role of platelets in hemostasis in forming the initial plug in vessel injuries, severe thrombocytopenia presents a high risk for a postoperative hemorrhage after dental extraction in these patients.

The threshold platelet count for thrombocytopenic patients who have to undergo surgical procedures remains unclarified in the current literature. It is however, common practice to increase the platelet count to at least 50,000/ μ L. For procedures in critical regions, such as the brain or eyes and for major surgery, the platelet count should be raised to at least 100,000/ μ L [10,11].

Obtaining a post transfusion platelet count is required before starting surgery. Depending on the expected level of hemorrhage, additional platelet concentrates can be transfused intra-operatively and postoperatively [11]. In addition, the use of local hemostatic measures is necessary to reduce the need of blood products and the risk of postoperative bleeding. We used TA, a synthetic derivative of the amino acid lysine that causes an antifibrinolytic activity in humans. It reversibly attaches to the lysine-binding site of plasminogen and blocks the binding to fibrin as well as its activation and transformation to plasmin. Thereby, the fibrinolysis and blood clot degradation is retarded [12]. In some countries, TA is not available. Epsilon aminocaproic acid (EA) has a similar effect. However, EA exhibits a slightly shorter plasma half-life and shows less antifibrinolytic activity than TA [13]. Various reports referred to the successful local use of TA in order to reduce oral bleeding and the need of blood products after oral surgery in patients with bleeding disorders [14,15]. Other local measures such as collagen fleece [16], oxidized cellulose [17], gelatin sponge [11], fibrin glue [18] and cyanoacrylate [19] are also reported to be helpful for local hemostasis. Furthermore, these measures may be com-

bined with antifibrinolytic drugs to potentiate the hemostatic effect. In addition, systemic EA or TA may be used if local hemostasis and platelet transfusion appear inadequate. A loading dose of 10 g intravenous followed by 1 g/h is recommended to achieve an effective plasma concentration [11]. In order to prevent secondary bleeding, resorbable suture material was used to avoid suture removal. Non-steroidal, anti-inflammatory drugs and aspirin, which inhibit the platelet function, must be avoided for pain control. Paracetamol is a safe alternative to prevent postoperative pain.

There are successful treatment protocols in the current literature for patients affected by thrombocytopenia. Engel et al. [16] describe the successful management of a female FA patient undergoing bone grafting and dental implant placement. The platelet count in this case was 25,000/ μ L. The patient received 1 U of single donor platelets preoperatively. EA was given via continuous infusion during the procedure at the rate of 500 mg/h. Additional pooled platelets and packed red blood cells were given intraoperatively. After taking the graft from the anterior iliac crest they used collagen fleece for local hemostasis. Two units of fresh frozen plasma were given postoperatively and the EA infusion was continued at 500 mg/h for 8 hours. A total blood loss of 1,000 mL was registered. Because of a platelet count of 64,000/ μ L, no blood products were necessary for the abutment placement in the mandible after 4 months and the maxilla after 8 months. The patient received only 500 mg EA orally, every 6 hours starting the day before the procedure and continuing 2 days postoperatively. All implants were noted to have solid osseointegration without difficulty and with adequate hemostasis.

Henderson et al. [11] reported three treatment protocols for patients with thrombocytopenia undergoing dental extraction. Platelet transfusions were combined in one case with gelatin sponge for local hemostasis. In all cases, the surgical sites were closed primarily.

One patient presented postoperative hemorrhage, which was managed systemically with multiple transfusions of packed red blood cells and platelets and topically with thrombin-soaked gauze over the surgical sites as an adjunctive hemostatic measure. This is an indication that postoperative bleeding after oral surgery in patients exhibiting thrombocytopenia is difficult to predict, even though defined treatment protocols are used. Postoperative monitoring of these patients is required to prevent excessive hemorrhage.

While the risk for hematologic diseases is greater during early childhood, solid tumors, particularly SCC, are most frequently observed in adults [4,20].

SCC in FA patients develops earlier than in the general population and shows a more aggressive behavior [4]. An average age of 27 years in FA patients (21) and an average time between the age of FA diagnosis and cancer development of 10.5 years [22] have been reported in the literature. The commonest localizations of SCC in FA patients in descending order are: the tongue, anogenital region, pharynx, larynx, oral mucosa, mandible and skin [23].

There are indications that the incidence of malignancy development is greater after FA patients have endured bone marrow transplantation, maybe by adding risk factors, such as pre-transplantation conditioning with chemotherapy and radiotherapy, immunosuppressive agents given for prophylaxis of graft versus host disease (GVHD) and GVHD itself [23]. Concerning the high risk of development malignancies, a biannual screening of the oral cavity and oropharynx starting between the ages of 15 and 20 is recommended. FA patients with a history of leukoplakia or recurrent oral lesions should be followed every six or eight weeks [4]. If malignancies are diagnosed, operative procedures in FA patients with head and neck cancer are similar to the general population with similar pathologies [24,25].

The associated bone marrow failure in FA patients requires preoperative consultation in a Hematology Oncology Treatment Centre. The need of blood and platelet transfusion before surgery must be considered [24]. Besides the risk of development of wound infections and hematoma, FA patients can have serious problems in adjuvant therapy [4,26]. Because of the increased susceptibility to mutagenic stimuli [27], standard doses of radiotherapy and chemotherapy are generally reduced [24].

CONCLUSION

The topical administration of TA in combination with primary suture and perioperative transfusion of platelets seems to be effective in the prevention of postoperative hemorrhage in patients with severe thrombocytopenia undergoing dental extraction. It is essential to follow defined surgical protocols in the management of patients with bleeding disorders. A specialized dental service should perform these procedures in close cooperation with a hematology oncology treatment centre. The high risk of developing an oral squamous cell carcinoma for patients affected by FA, requires a frequent oral examination by dental practitioners.

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