LETTER to the EDITOR

Successful Management of Bevacizumab-Associated Surgical Bleeding with an Ankaferd Blood Stopper

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Dear Editor

Bevacizumab is the first antiangiogenic agent clinically proven to extend survival and in combination with 5-fluorouracil (5-FU)–based chemotherapy has been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the first-line or second-line treatment of metastatic colorectal cancer (CRC). It has been associated with multiple complications after surgery in regard to wound healing, wound infection, and surgical site bleeding (Gordon et al., 2009).

We here would like to stress the possibility of successful management of the intractable bevacizumab-associated bleeding after intravenous port insertion procedure with Ankaferd Blood Stopper (ABS, Ankaferd Health Products Ltd, Turkey). Ankaferd Blood Stopper, a hemostatic agent approved by the Ministry of Health to manage external hemorrhage and dental surgery bleeding in Turkey, is a herbal extract obtained from 5 different plants: Thymus vulgaris, Glycyrrhiza glabra, Vitis vinifera, Alpinia officinarum and Urtica dioica. For centuries, it has had a historical role in traditional Turkish medicine as a topical hemostatic agent, usually for skin wounds (Goker et al., 2008).

70 years old male patient who were diagnosed metastatic colon carcinoma. He was started to treatment with a combination of capcitabine, oxaliplatin and bevacizumab. With this treatment he get partial remission with defective hemostasis due to enoxaparin and aspirin administration has been studied and ABS was found to be effective in shortening the duration of bleeding and decreasing the amount of bleeding (Cipil et al., 2009; Kurt et al., 2010).

In conclusion, application of the ABS may be a good option for surgical site bleeding related to bevacizumab that could not stopped conventional measures. However, this clinical observation should be supported with preclinical and clinical studies.
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References


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