



Research Study on Injured Patients in Richmond Area

Virginia Commonwealth University is conducting a research study, sponsored by the U.S. Army, to try to reduce death rates of patients who suffer a trauma (are severely hurt and bleeding). Henrico Fire and Richmond Ambulance Authority are partnering with VCU.

Injuries are a leading cause of death in the United States especially from major blood loss. Normally such patients receive plasma, a component of blood that helps it clot and other blood products after hospital arrival. At injury site or in ambulances, the routine fluid that EMS give directly into a vein in the arm is saline (salt water) which does not help the blood to clot. However, plasma does - but it is not carried in ambulances. The study is looking at whether the early use of plasma given by EMS personnel at the scene of injury as soon as possible after suffering a major trauma have:

- improved survival rates.
- reduced bleeding and pain and
- better clinical outcomes

Persons eligible for this study are at least 18 years old and non-pregnant. Because of the severity of their injuries and loss of blood, these individuals may not be able to provide consent to participate. Federal Regulations allow emergency research in patients with a life-threatening medical problem where the best known treatment is unknown and the intervention must be given without delay. Patients and families will be told about their loved-one's participation at the earliest opportunity after the event and will be able to provide permission to continue the study. Except for a total of 4 blood draws, once patients arrive at VCU they will receive no other study interventions - only routine care (what they would normally receive if not participating in the study). A patient's participation is expected to last for 30 days after injury.

You can refuse to participate in the study by requesting an opt-out wrist band. The band must be worn at all times so that EMS will know you do not wish to be in the study. The study is expected to remain open through 2016.

To learn more about this study, potential risks and benefits of treatment, as well as how to opt out, visit our website or call Judy Katzen, RN, MS.

go.vcu.edu/plasma
Or
804-82-PLASM (804-827-5276)