

PHARMACY

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Thank you for entrusting in the compounding services at Madison Medical Compounding Pharmacy to help meet the unique medication needs of your patients. We are excited to share our monthly newsletter with you and look forward to working with you. Please don't hesitate to let us know how we can assist you and your practice.

LeAnn Chambers, Pharm.D. and Matthew Chambers, Pharm.D.

Compounding for Palliative Care/Hospice

Palliative care aims to relieve and manage symptoms - such as nausea & vomiting, pain, dry mouth, oral pain or inflammation, wound care, fatigue, loss of appetite, radiation mucositis, constipation and shortness of breath - without causing unwanted side effects such as excessive drowsiness, GI upset and constipation. Our compounding pharmacy is an important part of the patient care team, as we have resources that are not available at traditional pharmacies. Our patients' options not limited to one-size-fits-all medications.



Here are some of the ways that our compounding pharmacy can help patients nearing end of life:

- We can customize pain medications to control pain that has not responded to commercially available drugs.
- When a medication is only commercially available as an oral or injectable form, it can often be compounded as a different dosage form such as a topical or transdermal gel, suppository, troche, or lollipop.
- We can combine compatible drugs into a single dosage form to make it easier to take medications and manage schedules.
- When a patient is unable to tolerate the taste of a medication, we can compound oral preparations and flavor them specifically for each patient, masking bitterness. Coffee, root beer, watermelon, and margarita are just a few of the flavors we offer!
- If a patient is suffering from dry mouth (common after head and/or neck radiation), or has mouth tenderness or an infection, medicated dosage forms can be compounded which may enable the patient to enjoy eating again.
- Pressure sores (decubitus ulcers) can be very difficult to manage. Our professional

compounding pharmacist can work with physicians and other members of the health care team to prepare the best formulation for each patient and relieve pain and speed healing.

- Wound odor can be extremely embarrassing for patients. Topical preparations can be compounded to reduce odor.

Life can be very challenging for those suffering from chronic illness and their families and caregivers. Adding the resources of our professional compounding pharmacy offers a greater spectrum of treatment options and allows the patient to live life more comfortably.

Various types of medications have been compounded to relieve problems that affect patients who are receiving palliative care or who have received chemotherapy or radiation therapy.

Topical Tranexamic Acid to Reduce Bleeding in Advanced BCC

Tranexamic acid (TXA) is a synthetic derivative of the amino acid lysine. Conventionally used orally or intravenously, when administered topically, TXA has the ability to reduce bleeding with minimal systemic absorption and, in turn, a reduction in the risk of systemic side effects. Clinical trials found that topical TXA reduces blood loss in cardiac, orthopedic, and otolaryngologic surgery. However, the hemostatic role of topical TXA for the skin has not been fully established. A case study discussed an elderly female with locally advanced basal cell carcinoma (BCC) of the scalp that was managed conservatively. Bleeding, which is usually caused by local vessel damage or invasion, is a common and distressing symptom in patients with advanced cutaneous malignancies. Various modalities such as dressings, cauterization, and radiotherapy are described in the literature for local hemostasis of patients with cutaneous malignancies. However, the primary aim in this case was palliative wound care, and successful hemostasis of the large bleeding malignancy was achieved using topical TXA. After a month of applying topical tranexamic acid 500 mg daily, the scalp tumor remained stable in size. Vascularity and bleeding of the tumor were significantly reduced. Wound dressings were continued, and topical TXA 500 mg was eventually decreased to every other day with continued good hemostatic effect. No systemic side effects were encountered during the course of the treatment. Topical TXA is a promising therapeutic option for the hemostasis of locally advanced BCC or other skin malignancies, especially as part of palliative care for patients who are unsuitable for surgery or radiotherapy. In terms of safety profile, a recent meta-analysis of studies involving topical TXA did not show increased risk of thromboembolic events such as myocardial infarction, stroke, pulmonary embolism, or deep vein thrombosis compared with the control groups involved.

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