

## The Efficacy of Surgicel Compared with Simple Gauze Packing in Grade IV Liver Laceration; A New Hope for Trauma Patients: An Experimental Study

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### Abstract

**Background:** The useful surgical hemostasis agent using in patients with grade 4 of the liver laceration is a challenging problem. This study assessed a topical hemostatic agent (Surgicel) using a partial hepatic laceration hemorrhage model. This experimental study compared the hemostatic effects of Surgicel and conventional gauze packing in hepatic parenchymal bleedings.

**Methods:** Twenty male Wistar albino rats (weight  $250 \pm 50$  g) were randomly divided into two groups. Within each treatment group, surgicel or gauze packing (GP) (n=10/group) was applied to the liver laceration site that was created in the large lobe of the liver.

**Results:** There was statistically significant difference between two groups regarding the changes of before and after operation of HCO<sub>3</sub> (P=0.019). Across two groups, rats receiving surgicel lost less blood and formed clots more frequently than GP (p<0.001).

**Conclusion:** Surgicel may be useful to treat hemorrhage from Liver lacerations in trauma patients.

**Keywords:** Surgicel; Liver laceration; Wounds; Injuries; Trauma

### Introduction

Trauma is the main cause of death among people aged from 1 to 40 years [1]. According to the studies, the most common preventable cause of death in the trauma patients is bleeding [2]. In Trauma Patients, because of direct tissue damage of trauma that starts bleeding, trauma-induced coagulopathy also played a major role in the deaths of these patients [3]. So, interventions to control bleeding in trauma patients have great importance.

The most common site of intra-abdominal bleeding following penetrating or blunt abdominal injury due to Intra-abdominal organs injuries are especially the liver and spleen including cases that should be given priority in the study of traumatic injuries. The possibility of severe bleeding after injury of the liver is high because of its rich blood supply [4-6].

Although bleeding caused some damage to the liver parenchyma with methods such as electrocautery, simple suture and angiography - embolization can be controlled, treating patients with complex liver damage, especially its deep lacerations, is still a topic challenging [7,8]. Abdominal packing as part of a damage-control laparotomy is a simple method that used to control bleeding following complex liver damage [9,10].

Studies have shown that using liver packing with second-look laparotomy along with removal of packs inserted in the over 80 % of patients with complex liver damage and coagulopathy simultaneously leads to success in control of bleeding [11].

There are several benefits to use packing, but intra-abdominal abscess and other complications such as sepsis after using it are probable. Research in this area with aims to find new methods to control bleeding due to liver damage (most commonly at risk of intra-abdominal injury), will increase the effectiveness of existing approaches, identifying and removing side effects of the procedure continues.

In this context, the aim of this study was to investigate the effectiveness of external use of Surgicel (Surgicel is a hemostatic agent (blood-clot-inducing material) made of an oxidized cellulose polymer (the unit is poly-anhydroglucuronic acid).

It is also used by some boxing cut-men to control bleeding.) in comparison with gauze packing in grade 4 of Liver laceration bleeding in animal models of liver injury. It should be noted, according to a survey on existing research, this issue has not been studied.

## Materials and Methods

### Animals

Twenty Wistar-Albino rats (all males, 3 months of age) at Shiraz University of Medical Sciences animal research laboratory, weight from 250 g to 300 g, were included in this study. All the animals were housed individually and fed standard food throughout the experiment. The animals were initially evaluated for illness by physical examination and laboratory screening. The animals were purchased from the laboratory animal department of Iran's Pasteur Institute of Pharmacy. The animals lived in cages (one animal per cage) with water and food. They were monitored and acclimated to the new environment for 1 week. All the rats were maintained on standard rat chow and water. They were all housed under controlled standard laboratory conditions (temperature 20°C to 24°C, relative humidity and 12/12 hour light/dark cycle). The study was approved by the institutional review board and ethics committee of Shiraz University of Medical Sciences and the Ethics Committee of Natural Chemotherapeutics Research Laboratory of Iran's Ministry of Health. Study animals were handled in conformity with guidelines for the care and handling of laboratory animals provided by Shiraz Laboratory Animals Center by global standards for laboratory biosafety guidelines. Study Protocol In this experimental study, 20 male Wistar portion rats were randomly divided into two groups (n=10).

### Anesthesia and surgical procedure

On the first day of experimentation, a 1 cm deep linear laceration was made on the large lobe in all rats by midline laparotomy immediately after induction of anesthesia with intramuscular injection of xylocaine and ketamine.

After 2 minutes of uncontrolled hemorrhage, the animals were randomized to application of gauze control (GC, n. 10), surgicel (CX, n.10) and packed in a standardized manner.

After 10 minutes, the packs were removed to calculate amount of shed blood. The animals then underwent damage control closure with packing in place. Forty-eight hours after initial damage control packing, the animals with gauze were returned to the operating room for pack removal. The need for repacking of the liver was assessed.

Blood samples were obtained at two different phases of the experiment:

Baseline and fourteen days after operation. Arterial and venous blood samples were analyzed with the hand-held iSTAT 1 Analyzer (Abbott Point of Care Inc., IL) and the Ac-T Hematology Analyzer (Beckman Coulter Inc., CA). Blood assays included hematocrit (Hct), platelet count and pH.

### Statistical analysis

The data were collected, analyzed and reported as the mean and standard deviation (mean ± SD) and proportions as appropriate. Statistical analysis was performed by the statistical package for social sciences (SPSS Inc., Chicago, USA) version 21.0 using Chi-Square Tests and Mann-Whitney Test.  $p < 0.05$  was considered as statistically significant.

## Results

The mean weight (gram) of the animals was  $300 \pm 5.4$  and  $290 \pm 4.3$  in the surgical and gaze groups, respectively. There was no difference in the preoperative body weights, the amount of liver removed, or the ratio of liver to body weight between groups.

The Mortality Ratio were 50% (5/10) in gauze group and 10% (1/10) in Surgical group that was not statistically significant ( $p$ -value=0.14). Mann-Whitney test indicated the amount of bleeding for the surgical group and the gauze group was statistically significant ( $p=0.001$ ). Descriptive statistics of variables before operation (pre) and fourteen days after operation (post) has been mentioned in Table 1.

Variables	Surgicel		Gauze packing	
	N	Mean ± SD	N	Mean ± SD
Hb-Pre	10	19.3 ± 1.49	10	17.47 ± 2.43
Hb-Post	9	12.75 ± 5.56	5	15.38 ± 1.80
HCT-Pre	10	58.13 ± 4.56	10	52.8 ± 7.28
HCT-Post	9	42.88 ± 10.63	5	46.6 ± 5.41
Bleeding	10	0.42 ± 0.16	10	0.82 ± 0.20
PH-Pre	10	7.21 ± 0.05	10	7.23 ± 0.04
PH-Post	9	7.35 ± 0.06	5	7.33 ± 0.09
HCO <sub>3</sub> -Pre	10	28.85 ± 2.69	10	28.19 ± 3.96
HCO <sub>3</sub> -Post	9	27.83 ± 2.52	5	25.76 ± 3.71

**Table 1:** The Mean ± SD of Hb, Hct, Ph, HCO<sub>3</sub> between two groups before operation (pre) and fourteen days after operation (post).

Before the treatment, there was no statistically significant difference between two groups in terms of Hb ( $p=0.89$ ), HCT ( $p=0.1$ ), PH ( $p=0.57$ ) and HCO<sub>3</sub> ( $p=0.63$ ). There were not statistically significant differences between two groups regarding the changes of before and after operation of Hb ( $p=0.16$ ), HCT ( $p=0.19$ ), Ph ( $p=0.89$ ). There was statistically significant difference between two groups regarding the changes of before and after operation of HCO<sub>3</sub> ( $P=0.019$ ). Also measuring volumetric density in these two groups had done. We compared volumetric density (Vv) in gauze and surgicel groups while fibrous and granulation tissues occupied the normal liver tissue (Table 2).

Groups	PT	PN	P barrier	Vv barrier	Vv normal
G1	165	163	2	0.01	0.99
G2	100	100	1	0.01	1.00
G4	96	96	1	0.01	1.00
G6	163	155	8	0.05	0.95
--	--	--	--	0.02	0.98
S1	204	202	2	0.01	0.99
S2	233	228	5	0.02	0.99
S3	82	79	3	0.04	0.96

S4	55	50	5	0.09	0.91
S5	152	138	14	0.09	0.91
S6	217	196	21	0.10	0.90
S8	367	339	28	0.08	0.92
S9	391	339	62	0.16	0.84
--	--	--	--	0.07	0.93

**Table 2:** Comparison of volumetric density between surgical and gauze groups.

## Discussion

Topical hemostatic agents are utilized as an extra or contrasting option to standard suturing systems to control bleeding. Topical hemostatic agents are utilized when surgical homeostasis is deficient or unfeasible. The larger part of standard, elective operations are performed in patients with typical homeostasis and with insignificant blood loss. The two primary classifications of topical hemostatic agents are physical operators, who advance homeostasis utilizing a detached substrate, and organically dynamic operators, which upgrade coagulation at the bleeding site. Intraoperative bleeding is controlled utilizing standard surgical systems and electrocautery with the adjunctive utilization of topical hemostatic agents. Electrocautery may not be valuable for controlling bleeding in some surgical fields, for example, around nerves, medullary bone surfaces, needle-opening bleeding from vascular grafts. Patients who are anticoagulated and those with bleeding diatheses (e.g., factor insufficiencies, disseminated intravascular coagulation), or have platelet brokenness (e.g., Aspirin treatment) can keep on oozing from surgical surfaces despite satisfactory surgical hemostasis.

Under perfect conditions, patients with hemostatic variations from the norm have their fundamental deformities amended before continuing with surgery; be that as it may, this is not conceivable. Anticoagulated patients, patients getting antiplatelet treatment, and those with inherent or procured bleeding diatheses may require crisis surgical techniques to oversee injury or random conditions or to oversee discharge that is a consequence of their issue. Under these conditions, adjustment of the hemostatic imperfection is attempted on the way to or at the same time with the strategy. Hemostatic variations from the norm can likewise create over the span of surgery (e.g., hypothermia, dispersed intravascular coagulation). The more up to date oral anticoagulant drugs (rivaroxaban, apixaban, dabigatran), dissimilar to warfarin, don't have an inversion agent. Organically dynamic topical hemostats might be successful in this setting. Activated prothrombin complex concentrate or factor VIIa ought to be considered if all else fails in occurrences of life-undermining bleeding, for example, ruptured aortic aneurysm or intracranial bleeding [12].

Topical hemostatic specialists ought not to be utilized intravascular in light of the fact that they will bring about thrombosis or in bound spaces where development of the item could prompt to pressure. Physical specialists advance hemostasis through a few impacts. The framework material gives a boost that enacts platelets and the outward pathway and gives a platform to thrombus affidavit. The dry lattice likewise ingests water and aggregates hemostatic elements at the site of dying, and tamponades bleeding vessels by applying weight. The different physical operators incorporate the accompanying: Oxidized

recovered cellulose, ChitoFlex, Topical thrombin, Fibrin sealant, Tranexamic corrosive. Oxidized recovered cellulose (ORC) is a dry, absorbable sterile work (e.g., Surgicel) that can be connected specifically to a region of dying. A solitary layer sheet is completely invested in around 14 days [13]. Results are ideal if bleeding is insignificant (i.e., overflowing). By measuring volumetric density it is showed that using surgicel had a better result on prevention the fibrous and granulation tissues to occupy more normal tissue.

## Conclusion

ORC is ordinarily used to control bleeding at vascular anastomotic locales, the cut surfaces of strong organs, and retroperitoneal or pelvic surfaces after lymphadenectomy. Since ORC is malleable, it can be rolled and go effectively through laparoscopic trocars [14,15] *in vitro*. We may think about having found that ORC has bactericidal action against an extensive variety of gram-positive and negative life forms due to its acidic pH [16,17]. The low pH additionally restrains proteases and elastase, which might be useful in perpetual injuries; nonetheless, this same property may repress its resorption [18]. Lingering ORC is connected with disease and bond arrangement. In one investigation of 360 patients with postoperative pelvic sore, unabsorbed ORC was recognized as a hazard consider, and at times un-resorbed ORC was found at laparotomy over 12 months after it was set [19]. Abundance utilization of topical hemostatic specialists can block wound recuperating. Granuloma arrangement has been accounted for with the utilization of microfibrillar collagen, gelatin froth, and cyanoacrylate [20-22]. Also, the metabolites of cyanoacrylates (i.e., cyanoacetate and formaldehyde) can bring about a fiery reaction in the encompassing tissues.

## Conflict of Interest

The authors had no conflict of interest.

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