



Original Research

Perioperative Tranexamic Acid Should Be Considered for Total Joint Arthroplasty Patients Receiving Apixaban for Thromboprophylaxis

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ABSTRACT

Background: This study aims to investigate if the perioperative administration of tranexamic acid (TXA) for total joint arthroplasty (TJA) patients receiving apixaban for thromboprophylaxis can reduce the risk of postoperative bleeding without increasing the rate of thromboembolic events.

Methods: The Premier Healthcare Database was utilized to identify all primary elective total knee arthroplasty (TKA) and total hip arthroplasty (THA) patients. Patients receiving apixaban during their in-hospital admission who received TXA on the day of surgery were compared to those who did not receive TXA. Differences in demographics, hospital characteristics, and comorbidities were assessed between groups. Univariate and multivariable regressions were utilized to assess differences in 90-day bleeding, thromboembolic, and medical postoperative outcomes between cohorts.

Results: In total, 118,219 TJA patients were identified (TKA: 65.3%; THA: 34.7%), of which 30,592 (25.9%) received apixaban alone, and 87,627 (74.1%) received apixaban and TXA. Multivariable analyses found that patients who received apixaban and TXA had a reduced risk of aggregate bleeding complications (adjusted odds ratio [aOR] 0.83, 95% confidence interval [CI]: 0.81–0.86, $P < .001$), transfusion (aOR 0.47, 95% CI: 0.43–0.52, $P < .001$), acute anemia (aOR 0.84, 95% CI: 0.81–0.87, $P < .001$), deep vein thrombosis (aOR 0.74, 95% CI: 0.66–0.83, $P < .001$), and pulmonary embolism (aOR 0.84, 95% CI: 0.72–0.96, $P = .012$). No differences between cohorts were observed for risk of stroke (aOR 1.09, 95% CI: 0.82–1.46, $P = .372$) and myocardial infarction (aOR 0.94, 95% CI: 0.76–1.16, $P = .564$).

Conclusions: Perioperative administration of TXA to TJA patients receiving apixaban reduces the risk of bleeding complications without increasing thromboembolic risk. Arthroplasty surgeons should strongly consider providing TXA to TJA patients receiving apixaban.

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Introduction

Venous thromboembolism (VTE) in the early postoperative period following elective total joint arthroplasty (TJA) is a significant concern, leading to increased morbidity and mortality [1–3]. In a retrospective cohort of 29,264 patients undergoing primary TJA, Simon et al. reported that the incidence of VTE in the 30-d postoperative period was 1.19%, with identified risk factors including a prior history of VTE and a hereditary hypercoagulable

state [4]. Older age, female sex, higher BMI, bilateral surgery, and surgery time >2 h have similarly been associated with an increased risk of VTE following TJA [5]. In addition to increased morbidity and mortality, Ollendorf et al. found that the costs of inpatient care for individuals who developed symptomatic, in-hospital VTE were almost doubled, resulting in significant economic burden to the healthcare system [6,7].

Direct oral anticoagulants (DOACs) have recently gained popularity as safe and effective chemoprophylactic agents for lowering the risk of VTE following TJA [8,9]. Apixaban, a direct factor X inhibitor commonly dosed at 2.5 mg BID, is the most frequently dispensed DOAC, accounting for 25% of all oral anticoagulation prescribed [10–13]. In a double-blind, randomized controlled trial examining 3057 elective total knee arthroplasty (TKA), Lassen et al. found that individuals randomized to receive apixaban 2.5 mg BID

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had a significantly lower risk of developing major VTE than those receiving enoxaparin 40 mg once daily [14]. Many patients also require apixaban on a chronic basis because of a history of atrial fibrillation, stroke, or VTE [15–17]. However, despite the impressive antithrombotic benefits of apixaban and other DOACs, bleeding complications following major orthopedic surgery remain a significant concern [12,18].

Recently, tranexamic acid (TXA) has gained popularity as a means of reducing postoperative blood loss without increasing thromboembolic risk [19–23]. While TXA's benefits are well-established in the arthroplasty literature, some surgeons selectively withhold it from patients they perceive to be at increased risk of thromboembolic disease. Many of these same high-risk patients receive chemoprophylactic agents such as apixaban. Despite the arthroplasty community recognizing the importance of TXA, it is frequently withheld from patients on apixaban. To date, insufficient data exist examining the potential upsides and downsides of this practice. As such, using a nationally representative database, this study sought to explore whether the combination of apixaban and TXA could safely mitigate the risk of postoperative bleeding events without increasing the risk of VTE in the early postoperative period.

Material and methods

All data in this study were obtained from the Premier Healthcare Database (PHD) (Premier, Inc., NC), a national, multi-center, all-payer claims repository containing approximately 25% of all inpatient admissions in the United States [24]. The PHD contains information including Current Procedural Terminology codes, International Classification of Diseases 10th Revision codes, billing records, patient and hospital characteristics, medication history, and 90-d complications. This study was not subjected to institutional review board approval, as all patient information in the PHD is de-identified in compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

International Classification of Diseases 10th Revision and Current Procedural Terminology codes were utilized to identify all patients who underwent primary elective TKA and total hip arthroplasty (THA) between January 1, 2015, and December 31, 2021. Patient medication regimens were identified using charge codes that are specific to PHD. All TJA patients who received oral or intravenous TXA on the day of surgery and any dose of apixaban during the in-hospital admission were identified as our cohort of interest. Patients who did not receive TXA but received any dose of apixaban served as our control group. Patients <18 y old, those receiving additional antithrombotics during their in-hospital admission, and individuals who underwent TJA for non-elective indications were excluded from the study (Supplemental Table 1).

Information including patient demographics, hospital characteristics, and comorbidities was extracted for both cohorts. The primary outcome of interest was the 90-d risk of postoperative bleeding complications (transfusion, acute anemia, hematoma, hemorrhage, and aggregate bleeding complications). Secondary outcomes included the 90-d risk of postoperative thromboembolic complications [deep vein thrombosis (DVT), pulmonary embolism (PE), stroke, myocardial infarction], medical complications (acute renal failure, pneumonia, acute respiratory failure, urinary tract infection, periprosthetic joint infection, sepsis, wound dehiscence, seroma), hospital readmission, and mortality.

Differences in patient demographics, hospital characteristics, and comorbidity burden were assessed utilizing *chi-square* analyses for categorical variables and independent *t*-tests for continuous variables. Univariate regression was subsequently utilized to assess risk for all primary and secondary outcomes. Multivariable regression analyses were then performed to account for potential

confounding variables, including any patient demographics, hospital characteristics, and comorbidities that displayed a significant difference between cohorts ($P < .100$). Statistical significance in the study was set at $P < .05$. All statistical analyses for this study were performed using STATA (version 18.0; StataCorp, College Station, TX).

Results

There were 118,219 TJA patients included in this study (TKA: 65.3%; THA: 34.7%), of which 30,592 (25.9%) received apixaban alone, and 87,627 (74.1%) received apixaban and TXA.

Demographics

While there were no significant differences in the gender composition between cohorts, patients who received apixaban and TXA were younger (67.7 y vs 68.8 y, $P < .001$) and more likely to be black (8.8% vs 8.1%, $P < .001$) and married (61.0% vs 52.3%, $P < .001$). Furthermore, patients receiving both apixaban and TXA were more likely to be treated in a teaching hospital (45.2% vs 37.5%, $P < .001$) and treated by a provider in the Midwest (30.1% vs 26.1%, $P < .001$; Table 1).

Comorbidities

Patients receiving apixaban alone had a higher prevalence in 30 of the 38 comorbidities assessed. Compared to patients receiving apixaban alone, patients receiving apixaban and TXA had significantly lower rates of congestive heart failure (6.6% vs 8.7%, $P < .001$), myocardial infarction (4.1% vs 5.1%, $P < .001$), coronary artery disease (13.4% vs 16.8%, $P < .001$), history of a prior stent (4.4% vs 5.8%, $P < .001$), renal failure (9.8% vs 12.0%, $P < .001$), cerebrovascular accident (5.5% vs 7.6%, $P < .001$), complicated diabetes (7.6% vs 8.9%, $P < .001$), and VTE (9.8% vs 14.6%, $P < .001$). Patients receiving apixaban and TXA were more likely to have hypertension (59.0% vs 57.8%, $P < .001$) and be obese (32.8% vs 31.8%, $P = .002$). No differences between cohorts were found when looking at prevalence of smoking, uncomplicated diabetes, rheumatic disease, and depression (Table 2).

Outcomes

Univariate regression analysis demonstrated that patients receiving apixaban and TXA had lower rates of aggregate bleeding complications (18.6% vs 23.0%, $P < .001$), transfusion (1.3% vs 3.6%, $P < .001$), and acute anemia (17.9% vs 22.0%, $P < .001$) within 90 d postoperatively. No significant differences were found when looking at rates of hematoma (0.4% vs 0.5%, $P = .056$) and hemorrhage (0.2% vs 0.3%, $P = .099$; Table 3).

Regarding thromboembolic complications, patients who received apixaban and TXA had significantly reduced rates of DVT (1.0% vs 1.7%, $P < .001$), PE (0.8% vs 1.2%, $P < .001$), stroke (0.2% vs 0.3%, $P = .043$), and myocardial infarction (0.3% vs 0.5%, $P < .001$; Table 4). In addition, when looking at medical complications, patients receiving both apixaban and TXA had reduced rates of acute renal failure (3.3% vs 5.2%, $P < .001$), pneumonia (0.8% vs 1.1%, $P < .001$), acute respiratory failure (1.5% vs 2.4%, $P < .001$), urinary tract infection (2.2% vs 2.6%, $P < .001$), sepsis (0.6% vs 0.8%, $P < .001$), and hospital readmission (5.8% vs 3.8%, $P < .001$). No significant differences were found between cohorts for rates of periprosthetic joint infection (0.6% vs 0.7%, $P = .115$), wound dehiscence (0.6% vs 0.7%, $P = .179$), seroma (0.1% vs 0.1%, $P = .939$), and 90-day mortality (0.1% vs 0.2%, $P = .293$; Table 5).

Table 1
Patient and Hospital characteristics of the apixaban and the apixaban + TXA cohorts.

| Demographics | Apixaban (N = 30,592) | | Apixaban + TXA (N = 87,627) | | P-value |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---------|-----------------------------|---------|---------|
| | Average | SD | Average | SD | |
| Age (years) | 68.8 | 9.9 | 67.7 | 9.8 | <.001 |
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | |
| Gender | | | | | |
| Men | 18,068 | 59.1% | 52,355 | 59.7% | .101 |
| Women | 12,524 | 40.9% | 35,272 | 40.3% | |
| Race | | | | | |
| Asian | 25,803 | 84.3% | 74,248 | 84.7% | <.001 |
| Black | 306 | 1.0% | 653 | 0.7% | |
| Other | 2466 | 8.1% | 7688 | 8.8% | |
| Unknown | 1343 | 4.4% | 3932 | 4.5% | |
| Caucasian | 674 | 2.2% | 1106 | 1.3% | |
| Marital status | | | | | |
| Married | 15,994 | 52.3% | 53,442 | 61.0% | <.001 |
| Single | 9884 | 32.3% | 31,076 | 35.5% | |
| Other | 4622 | 15.1% | 2868 | 3.3% | |
| Unknown | 92 | 0.3% | 241 | 0.3% | |
| Bed size | | | | | |
| <100 | 1549 | 5.1% | 5887 | 6.7% | <.001 |
| 100-199 | 6833 | 22.3% | 14,135 | 16.1% | |
| 200-299 | 5883 | 19.2% | 19,079 | 21.8% | |
| 399-399 | 5269 | 17.2% | 13,948 | 15.9% | |
| 400-499 | 3397 | 11.1% | 12,210 | 13.9% | |
| >500 | 7661 | 25.0% | 22,368 | 25.5% | |
| Urban vs. Rural | | | | | |
| Rural | 3371 | 11.0% | 9830 | 11.2% | .342 |
| Urban | 27,221 | 89.0% | 77,797 | 88.8% | |
| Teaching status | | | | | |
| No | 19,113 | 62.5% | 48,006 | 54.8% | <.001 |
| Yes | 11,479 | 37.5% | 39,621 | 45.2% | |
| Region | | | | | |
| Midwest | 7979 | 26.1% | 26,340 | 30.1% | <.001 |
| Northeast | 5761 | 18.8% | 13,463 | 15.4% | |
| South | 13,415 | 43.9% | 41,583 | 47.5% | |
| West | 3437 | 11.2% | 6241 | 7.1% | |

TXA, tranexamic acid.

Multivariable models controlling for confounding variables found that patients in the apixaban and TXA cohort continued to have a significantly reduced risk of aggregate bleeding complications (adjusted odds ratio [aOR] 0.83, 95% confidence interval [CI]: 0.81-0.86, $P < .001$), transfusion (aOR 0.47, 95% CI: 0.43-0.52, $P < .001$), acute anemia (aOR 0.84, 95% CI: 0.81-0.87, $P < .001$), DVT (aOR 0.74, 95% CI: 0.66-0.83, $P < .001$), PE (aOR 0.84, 95% CI: 0.72-0.96, $P = .012$), acute renal failure (aOR 0.82, 95% CI: 0.76-0.88, $P < .001$), and acute respiratory failure (aOR 0.87, 95% CI: 0.78-0.96, $P = .005$; Tables 3-5).

Multivariable regression showed no significant differences were found for risk of hematoma, hemorrhage, stroke, myocardial infarction, pneumonia, urinary tract infection, periprosthetic joint infection, sepsis, wound dehiscence, seroma, hospital readmission, and mortality (Tables 3-5).

Post hoc power analysis using G*Power version 3.1.9.7 demonstrated a power greater than 80% for all outcomes within this study, indicating sufficient statistical power [25].

Discussion

Perioperative administration of TXA has been shown to be highly effective, decreasing rates of bleeding and transfusion for TJA patients [22,23,26]. Similarly, apixaban has been shown to reduce the risk of symptomatic VTE events [27-29]. Despite the frequency at which these medications are prescribed, no studies have investigated the combined perioperative use of these medications in arthroplasty patients. Our study shows that patients receiving both apixaban and TXA demonstrate a decreased risk of

bleeding complications, without any increased risk of thromboembolic complications compared to patients receiving apixaban alone.

Apixaban has emerged as a highly effective thromboprophylactic agent for TJA patients, with advantages compared to those of traditional anticoagulants including oral administration and reduced need for extensive laboratory monitoring [8,11,27,30,31]. Similarly, TXA has gained popularity among arthroplasty surgeons for its ability to prevent postoperative bleeding complications [19,20,32]. Despite historical concerns about the increased VTE risk associated with the perioperative administration of TXA, recent studies have determined that these concerns are unfounded [22,23,33,34]. In a retrospective study involving 70,759 TJA patients with a history of VTE, Richardson et al. demonstrated that patients who received TXA had lower rates of PE and similar rates of myocardial infarction, stroke, and DVT compared to patients who did not receive TXA [22]. However, it is unknown if the perioperative administration of TXA to TJA patients receiving apixaban affects the thromboprophylactic potential of apixaban. Our study shows that administering TXA in the perioperative period does not negate the robust anti-thrombotic potency of apixaban, with patients receiving both TXA and apixaban displaying a 0.736-times reduced risk of developing DVT and a 0.835-times decreased risk of developing PE compared to patients on apixaban alone. This lower risk of DVT and PE may occur as TXA significantly mitigates the risk of transfusion, a known risk factor for thromboembolic complications [22,35]. Furthermore, similar to Richardson et al., we found that patients who received TXA were at no increased risk of 90-d medical complications, readmission, or mortality [22]. Our

Table 2
Comorbidity differences between the apixaban and the apixaban + TXA cohorts.

| Comorbidities | Apixaban (N = 30,592) | | Apixaban + TXA (N = 87,627) | | % difference | P-value |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-------|-----------------------------|-------|--------------|---------|
| | N | % | N | % | | |
| Congestive heart failure | 2652 | 8.7% | 5810 | 6.6% | -2.1% | <.001 |
| Myocardial infarction | 1562 | 5.1% | 3625 | 4.1% | -1.0% | <.001 |
| Valvular disease | 307 | 1.0% | 607 | 0.7% | -0.3% | <.001 |
| Coronary artery disease | 5135 | 16.8% | 11,772 | 13.4% | -3.4% | <.001 |
| Prior stent | 1762 | 5.8% | 3813 | 4.4% | -1.4% | <.001 |
| Smoking | 1682 | 5.5% | 4986 | 5.7% | 0.2% | .210 |
| Thrombophilia | 487 | 1.6% | 835 | 1.0% | -0.6% | <.001 |
| Hemophilia | 66 | 0.2% | 103 | 0.1% | -0.1% | <.001 |
| Pulmonary hypertension | 541 | 1.8% | 1119 | 1.3% | -0.5% | <.001 |
| Chronic pulmonary disease | 5642 | 18.4% | 15,305 | 17.5% | -0.9% | <.001 |
| Peripheral vascular disease | 1488 | 4.9% | 3171 | 3.6% | -1.3% | <.001 |
| Hypertension | 17,691 | 57.8% | 51,662 | 59.0% | 1.2% | <.001 |
| Complicated hypertension | 4818 | 15.8% | 11,221 | 12.8% | -3.0% | <.001 |
| Cerebrovascular accident | 2312 | 7.6% | 4830 | 5.5% | -2.1% | <.001 |
| Hemiplegia/Paraplegia | 45 | 0.2% | 70 | 0.1% | -0.1% | <.001 |
| Other neurological disorders | 904 | 3.0% | 2066 | 2.4% | -0.6% | <.001 |
| Diabetes, uncomplicated | 4401 | 14.4% | 12,990 | 14.8% | 0.4% | .063 |
| Diabetes, complicated | 2736 | 8.9% | 6697 | 7.6% | -1.3% | <.001 |
| Hypothyroidism | 5702 | 18.6% | 15,778 | 18.0% | -0.6% | .013 |
| Renal failure | 3657 | 12.0% | 8584 | 9.8% | -2.2% | <.001 |
| Liver disease | 560 | 1.8% | 1302 | 1.5% | -0.3% | <.001 |
| Chronic peptic ulcer disease | 97 | 0.3% | 273 | 0.3% | 0.0% | .882 |
| Blood loss anemia | 216 | 0.7% | 711 | 0.8% | 0.1% | .072 |
| Deficiency anemia | 587 | 1.9% | 1328 | 1.5% | -0.4% | <.001 |
| Coagulopathy | 1192 | 3.9% | 2350 | 2.7% | -1.2% | <.001 |
| Venous thromboembolism | 4457 | 14.6% | 8606 | 9.8% | -4.8% | <.001 |
| Fluid and electrolyte disorders | 3088 | 10.1% | 6424 | 7.3% | -2.8% | <.001 |
| Rheumatic disease | 1455 | 4.8% | 4042 | 4.6% | -0.2% | .305 |
| HIV/AIDS | 21 | 0.1% | 43 | 0.1% | 0.0% | .205 |
| Lymphoma | 127 | 0.4% | 198 | 0.2% | -0.2% | <.001 |
| Obesity | 9727 | 31.8% | 28,708 | 32.8% | 1.0% | .002 |
| Weight loss | 91 | 0.3% | 184 | 0.2% | -0.1% | .006 |
| Solid tumor | 224 | 0.7% | 524 | 0.6% | -0.1% | .011 |
| Metastatic cancer | 24 | 0.1% | 51 | 0.1% | 0.0% | .226 |
| Alcohol abuse | 282 | 0.9% | 823 | 0.9% | 0.0% | .785 |
| Drug abuse | 337 | 1.1% | 828 | 0.9% | -0.2% | .017 |
| Psychoses | 70 | 0.2% | 198 | 0.2% | 0.0% | .928 |
| Depression | 4186 | 13.7% | 12,112 | 13.8% | 0.1% | .544 |

study adds to the growing body of literature confirming the safety profile of TXA, even when used perioperatively with apixaban.

DOAC use after TJA has been associated with an elevated risk of postoperative blood loss [8,12,18]. In a retrospective database study comparing outcomes of THA patients on various postoperative thromboprophylactic agents, Agaba et al. found that those given only apixaban exhibited a 4-times increased risk of hematoma and 3.5-times the risk of hemorrhage postoperatively compared to patients receiving other standard chemoprophylactic agents such as aspirin [36]. Similar concerns regarding increased risk of postoperative bleeding accompany rivaroxaban, which like apixaban is a direct factor Xa inhibitor [8]. Several randomized controlled

studies have looked at the utility of TXA to potentially offset postoperative bleeding complications for TJA patients given rivaroxaban, demonstrating that patients receiving TXA on the day of surgery and rivaroxaban for postoperative thromboprophylaxis experienced significantly less postoperative blood loss and risk of transfusion than patients using rivaroxaban alone [37,38]. Similarly, our study shows that TJA patients who received TXA and apixaban had a significantly decreased risk of bleeding than patients receiving apixaban alone, with a 0.471-times reduced risk of transfusion, a 0.840-times decreased risk of acute anemia, and a 0.834-fold reduction in aggregate bleeding complications. These outcomes underscore the robust hemostatic effects of TXA, which

Table 3
Bleeding complications.

| 90-Day postoperative outcomes | Apixaban (N = 30,592) | | Apixaban + TXA (N = 87,627) | | Univariate regression | | | Multivariable regression | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-------|-----------------------------|-------|-----------------------|-----------|---------|--------------------------|-----------|---------|
| | N | % | N | % | OR | 95% CI | P-value | aOR | 95% CI | P-value |
| Aggregate bleeding complications | 7036 | 23.0% | 16,283 | 18.6% | 0.76 | 0.74-0.79 | <.001 | 0.83 | 0.81-0.86 | <.001 |
| Transfusion | 1088 | 3.6% | 1152 | 1.3% | 0.36 | 0.33-0.39 | <.001 | 0.47 | 0.43-0.52 | <.001 |
| Acute anemia | 6728 | 22.0% | 15,689 | 17.9% | 0.77 | 0.75-0.80 | <.001 | 0.84 | 0.81-0.87 | <.001 |
| Hematoma | 142 | 0.5% | 336 | 0.4% | 0.83 | 0.68-1.00 | .056 | 0.89 | 0.73-1.09 | .255 |
| Hemorrhage | 75 | 0.3% | 171 | 0.2% | 0.80 | 0.61-1.04 | .099 | 0.87 | 0.66-1.14 | .312 |
| Hospital readmission | 1164 | 3.8% | 5091 | 5.8% | 0.85 | 0.80-0.90 | <.001 | 0.95 | 0.89-1.02 | .186 |
| Mortality | 50 | 0.2% | 120 | 0.1% | 0.84 | 0.60-1.17 | .293 | 1.28 | 0.91-1.81 | .157 |

Table 4
Thromboembolic complications.

| 90-Day postoperative outcomes | Apixaban (N = 30,592) | | Apixaban + TXA (N = 87,627) | | Univariate regression | | | Multivariate regression | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|------|-----------------------------|------|-----------------------|-----------|---------|-------------------------|-----------|---------|
| | N | % | N | % | OR | 95% CI | P-value | aOR | 95% CI | P-value |
| Deep vein thrombosis | 520 | 1.7% | 893 | 1.0% | 0.60 | 0.53-0.66 | <.001 | 0.74 | 0.66-0.83 | <.001 |
| Pulmonary embolism | 375 | 1.2% | 698 | 0.8% | 0.65 | 0.57-0.73 | <.001 | 0.84 | 0.72-0.96 | .012 |
| Stroke | 83 | 0.3% | 182 | 0.2% | 0.77 | 0.59-0.99 | .043 | 1.09 | 0.82-1.46 | .561 |
| Myocardial infarction | 147 | 0.5% | 269 | 0.3% | 0.64 | 0.52-0.78 | <.001 | 0.94 | 0.76-1.16 | .564 |

are still preserved even when patients are given apixaban in the perioperative period. Furthermore, in vitro studies demonstrate no drug-drug interactions between apixaban and TXA, further highlighting the compatibility of utilizing both medications [39,40]. The results of this study suggest that TJA patients on apixaban for postoperative thromboprophylaxis or due to a history of atrial fibrillation, stroke, or VTE should receive TXA perioperatively, given the potential of TXA to effectively mitigate the risk of bleeding complications.

There are several limitations to this study. Given its retrospective nature, this study is naturally prone to errors stemming from the source data. Also, while the PHD is one of the largest databases available, it still only captures 25% of all inpatient admissions in the United States, which may limit generalizability. Furthermore, the patients within our study who received TXA in addition to apixaban tended to be healthier and have fewer comorbidities than patients just receiving apixaban, which may be a reflection of selection bias and surgeons' hesitancy to provide TXA to sicker patients. However, we were able to account for these differences in medical comorbidities in our multivariable models. In addition, we were unable to account for differences in route and timing of TXA administration during the perioperative period. However, current clinical practice guidelines show that there are limited differences in patient outcomes when taking into consideration route, dosage, and the perioperative timing of TXA administration [41]. Moreover, although the PHD provides detailed information regarding medications that patients receive during their in-patient stay, it lacks data preceding and following the index admission unless the patient is readmitted. Consequently, our ability to account for patients potentially receiving apixaban prior to surgery due to other coexisting comorbidities and to assess the duration of apixaban regimens and the timing of thromboembolic complications in relationship to apixaban cessation is limited. Lastly, as a retrospective study, causal relationships cannot be conclusively established between a particular intervention and an outcome. As such, future prospective studies are needed to provide additional high-quality data to help guide clinical practice guidelines.

This study has several notable strengths. To begin with, all patients within this study underwent TJA between 2015 and 2021, representing a modern cohort reflective of contemporary surgical practices. In addition, to our knowledge, there are no current studies in the arthroplasty literature comparing outcomes between patients receiving apixaban and patients receiving apixaban and TXA. Furthermore, the PHD is a multicenter national database, providing a robust representation of the arthroplasty patient population within the United States. Moreover, the PHD provides a high degree of granularity for each patient, including information such as demographics, hospital characteristics, and comorbidities. This allowed us to control for potential confounders and create robust multivariable models that are able to compare the true difference in outcomes between patients who were administered apixaban vs those given TXA and apixaban.

Conclusions

This study found that administering TXA perioperatively to TJA patients receiving apixaban for thromboprophylaxis reduces the risk of postoperative bleeding complications without increasing the risk of thromboembolic complications. Surgeons should strongly consider administering TXA to all TJA patients receiving apixaban for VTE thromboprophylaxis.

Conflicts of interest

NDH received royalties from Corin U.S.A.; is a paid consultant for Intellijoint Surgical, MicroPort Orthopedics, Corin U.S.A., and Zimmer; has stock or stock options in Intellijoint Surgical; and is a board member of AAOS, AJRR, and AAHKS. JRL receives royalties from and is a paid consultant for DePuy, a Johnson and Johnson Company; has stock or stock options in BD Surgiphor and Hip Innovations Technologies; received financial or material support from Saunders/Mosby Elsevier; and is a board member of AAOS, Hip Society, Musculoskeletal Transplant Foundation, and Western Orthopaedic Association. The remaining authors have no conflicts to disclose.

Table 5
Medical and other complications.

| 90-Day postoperative outcomes | Apixaban (N = 30,592) | | Apixaban + TXA (N = 87,627) | | Univariate regression | | | Multivariate regression | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|------|-----------------------------|------|-----------------------|-----------|---------|-------------------------|-----------|---------|
| | N | % | N | % | OR | 95% CI | P-value | aOR | 95% CI | P-value |
| Acute renal failure | 1584 | 5.2% | 2927 | 3.3% | 0.63 | 0.59-0.67 | <.001 | 0.82 | 0.76-0.88 | <.001 |
| Pneumonia | 345 | 1.1% | 687 | 0.8% | 0.69 | 0.61-0.79 | <.001 | 0.88 | 0.77-1.01 | .068 |
| Acute respiratory failure | 723 | 2.4% | 1350 | 1.5% | 0.65 | 0.59-0.71 | <.001 | 0.87 | 0.78-0.96 | .005 |
| Urinary tract infection | 808 | 2.6% | 1882 | 2.2% | 0.81 | 0.74-0.88 | <.001 | 0.96 | 0.88-1.05 | .374 |
| Periprosthetic joint infection | 198 | 0.7% | 497 | 0.6% | 0.88 | 0.74-1.03 | .115 | 0.95 | 0.80-1.12 | .526 |
| Sepsis | 237 | 0.8% | 515 | 0.6% | 0.76 | 0.65-0.88 | <.001 | 0.95 | 0.81-1.12 | .534 |
| Wound dehiscence | 208 | 0.7% | 534 | 0.6% | 0.90 | 0.76-1.05 | .179 | 0.99 | 0.84-1.16 | .869 |
| Seroma | 24 | 0.1% | 70 | 0.1% | 1.02 | 0.64-1.62 | .939 | 1.05 | 0.66-1.69 | .830 |
| Hospital readmission | 1164 | 3.8% | 5091 | 5.8% | 0.85 | 0.80-0.90 | <.001 | 0.96 | 0.90-1.02 | .152 |
| Mortality | 50 | 0.2% | 120 | 0.1% | 0.84 | 0.60-1.17 | .293 | 1.28 | 0.92-1.80 | .149 |

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CRedit authorship contribution statement

Sagar Telang: Writing – review & editing, Writing – original draft, Validation, Investigation, Formal analysis. **Ryan Palmer:** Writing – review & editing, Writing – original draft, Validation, Investigation. **Andrew Dobitsch:** Writing – review & editing, Writing – original draft, Validation, Formal analysis. **Jacob R. Ball:** Writing – review & editing, Writing – original draft, Investigation. **Nathanael D. Heckmann:** Writing – review & editing, Validation, Supervision, Conceptualization. **Jay R. Lieberman:** Writing – review & editing, Validation, Supervision.

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Supplemental Table 1

ICD-Tenth Revision (ICD-10) and Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes.

| ICD-10 codes | Description |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| TJA | THA: 0SR90- + 0SRB0-; TKA: 0SRC0- + 0SRD0- |
| Neoplasm | C40.2, C40.8, C40.9, C41.4, C41.9, C76.3, C76.5, C79.5, C80.9 |
| Trauma | M80.05, M80.06, M80.85, M80.86, M84.35, M84.36, M84.45, M84.46, M84.65, M84.66, M84.75, S32.3, S32.4, S32.5, S32.6, S32.8, S72, S79.0, S79.1, S82.0, S82.1, S82.2, S82.3, S82.4, S82.8, S82.9, S89.0, S89.1, S89.2, S89.3, M96.65, M96.66, M96.67, M96.69 |
| Periprosthetic Fracture | M97.0, M97.1 |
| Complication of Orthopedic Implants | T84.0, T84.116, T85.117, T84.124, T84.125, T84.126, T84.127, T84.194, T84.195, T84.196, T84.197, T84.218, T84.228, T84.3, T84.4, T84.8, T84.9 |
| History of Venous Thromboembolism | Z86.71, I26 |
| History of Myocardial Infarction | I21, I22, I25.2 |
| History of Cerebrovascular Accident | G45, G46, I60, I69, H34.0, Z86.73 |
| Peripheral Vascular Disease | Z95.8, Z95.9 |
| CPT Codes | Description |
| TJA | THA: 27130; TKA: 27447 |