

Ankaferd Blood Stopper for Gastrointestinal Bleeding

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Letter to Editor

Dear Editor,

We have read with great interest the article by Karakaya et al. focusing on a new hemostatic agent, Ankaferd Blood Stopper (ABS) [1]. We, herein, would like to share our experience regarding ABS in the setting of gastrointestinal (GI) bleedings [2-6]. ABS has been approved as a medicinal product for the management of open cutaneous, external post-surgical and dental bleedings in Turkey. We have presented a retrospective small case series regarding the topical application of ABS for controlling spontaneous or post-biopsy bleeding from gastrointestinal cancers [2]. The endoscopic use of this agent in the context of bleeding GI tumors is interesting and of potential clinical relevance given the apparent immediate hemostatic response, simplicity of application (topical spray), and apparent lack of adverse effects [2,3]. Regarding the exact mechanism of action of ABS, we believe that dual action is in fact involved in the hemostatic process. Besides the initial network, preliminary study has demonstrated anti-angiogenic properties of the product, measured as micro-vessel density [4]. ABS also found to be effective for chronic and serious GI bleeding [5,6]. It is worth mentioning that topical application of ABS is not expected to be of benefit when used on its own for spurting arterial bleeds due to the forceful nature of the bleeding, although its use as an adjuvant to other modalities (endoclip, heater probe) deserves consideration [7]. There have been no reports on adverse side effects of any severity. Further controlled clinical trials, that are underway in distinct areas, are needed to elucidate the role of ABS in surgical bleedings.

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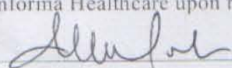
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