

# ALOE FLUID AIDS SURVIVAL FROM BLOOD LOSS



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Aloe fluid aids survival from blood loss

PITTSBURGH, Jul 27, 2004 (United Press International via COMTEX) -- A resuscitation fluid from aloe vera might save the lives of patients suffering massive blood loss caused by trauma, U.S. researchers said Tuesday.

University of Pittsburgh researchers found giving rats a very small amount of the fluid prolonged their survival and increased body-wide oxygen consumption after blood loss, called hemorrhagic shock.

The fluid is a derivative of the plant aloe vera that reduces flow-resistance in the bloodstream and increases oxygen diffusion. Typically, hemorrhagic shock is treated by controlling bleeding and restoring blood volume with a solution of red blood cells, but in the case of a wounded soldier in combat, for example, the significant amount of blood lost often cannot be replaced quickly enough to save the victim's life, researchers said.

"Medics would need only to carry a small amount of this solution, which could feasibly be administered before the soldier is evacuated to a medical unit or facility," said senior study author Mitchell P. Fink.