

Table 7: Dose and frequency of fibrinolytic regimens

Fibrinolytic Agent	Concentration	Regimen	Total Number of Doses
Tissue plasminogen activator	4 mg mixed in 40 mL of normal saline	1 st dose at time of chest tube (CT) placement. 1 hour dwell time ¹ after which the CT is placed on continuous suction (-20 cm H ₂ O). Repeat every 24 hours.	3
Tissue plasminogen activator	0.1 mg/kg (maximum of 3 mg mixed in 10 – 30 mL of normal saline)	1 st dose after placement of pigtail catheter. 45 – 60 minute dwell time ¹ after which CT is placed on continuous suction (-20 cm H ₂ O). Repeat every 8 hours.	9
Urokinase	< 1 year: 10,000 U in 10 mL normal saline	1 st dose at placement of CT with 4 hour dwell time. ¹ CT is placed on continuous suction (-10 to -20 cm H ₂ O). Repeat every 12 hours.	6
	> 1 year: 40,000 U in 40 mL normal saline		

¹ Chest drain remains clamped during “dwell time”.