CRYSTALLOIDS are substances that form true solutions and are capable of becoming crystallized. They are water-based solutions with small molecules that are permeable to capillary membranes. They are used during haemorrhagic shock for interstitial fluid replacement. Isotonic crystalloids are used during traumatic situations for resuscitation (e.g. lactated Ringers). Hypertonic crystalloids, such as 5% glucose, are used during traumatic situations for rapid intravascular volume expansion. However, this in volume is transient and therefore colloids are often included in the treatment to retain more of the water and sodium within the intravascular space. Hypertonic solutions should be avoided if there is ongoing loss of plasma, or existing interstitial dehydration.

Examples of crystalloids include  Ringer's, lactated Ringer's, acetate Ringer's solution, 0.9% sodium chloride, 7.2% NaCl, 1.3% sodium bicarbonate, 8% sodium bicarbonate, calcium gluconate, and 50% dextrose.

SOURCE: <http://cal.vet.upenn.edu/projects/eqemerg/case1/5sconslt/5sIA2G.htm>