

## BLOOD TRANSFUSION

### Whole Blood

**Indication:** Haemorrhage

Loss of about 800 ml of blood in adult may be managed by colloid solutions & blood transfusion may not be needed.

**Storage** of blood should be at 4 to 6°C in a blood bank refrigerator.

**Changes in stored blood:**

In RBC: Reduction of intracellular ATP, K<sup>+</sup>, 2-3 DPG (least with CPD adenine preservative)

In Plasma: Rise of K<sup>+</sup>, ammonia, reduced clotting factors

Progressive reduction of Platelets & WBC-s.

Others: formation of microaggregates

*Rewarming of blood:* Mostly unnecessary

Should be done in shocked pts., in paediatric & old pts. during massive transfusion.

*Use of blood filters* – should remove particles to a size of 20 micron

### Packed RBC

**Indication:** Anaemia

Hb > 8.5 g% - no need

Hb - 7-8.5 g% - ±

Hb - < 7 g% - yes

### Platelets

**Indications:**

Thrombocytopenia + bleeding – yes

Thrombocytopenia below 20,000 + infection – yes

Thrombocytopenia abv 5000

no infection, no bleeding – no

Platelets should be used within 12 hrs of collection and preferably stored at 22°C

*Type* – SDP or RDP

*CCI* (Corrected count increment)

$CCI = (\text{Post-Pre}) \times \text{BSA} / (\text{number of platelets transfused} \times 10^{-11})$

CCI < 5000 ---- Platelet refractory ---- Rx cross match compatible platelets or HLA matched SDPs / Platelet drip

### Granulocytes

**Indications:** Neutropenic pts. + sepsis not responding to antibiotics for at least 24 hrs.

Fungal infection.

Short half-life -- daily admin. (rate - 1-2 ml/min. through a standard microaggregate filter)

Granulocytes should be ABO compatible & cross matched & should be irradiated (25 Gy)

Stored at 20-240 c for 24 hrs.

One unit contains about  $1 \times 10^{10}$  neutrophils (from nonstimulated donors)

One unit contains about 6 to  $8 \times 10^{10}$  neutrophils (from stimulated donors)

Benefit is not clear– lack of trials

*Risk to the donor*—Hydroxyethyl starch related  
fluid retention, hypotension, citrate induced hypocalcemia

*Risk to the recipient*- Febrile reaction is very common  
(Paracetamol is prerequisite)  
Pulmonary infiltration

### **Adverse effects**

- Febrile reactions
- Allergic manifestations
- Overloading of circulation
- Bacterial contamination
- Biochemical changes following massive blood transfusion
  - Massive–1) replacement of half of estimated blood volume in 1 hr. or less
  - 2) replacement of whole estimated blood volume in 24 hrs. or less
  - 3) at a rate of 500ml in 5 min. or less
- Hyperkalemia
- Citrate intoxication --hypocalcemia
- Metabolic acidosis
- Ammonia
- Transfusion related Acute Lung injury (TRALI) occurs within 6 hrs. of transfusion  
dyspnoea, tachypnoea, cyanosis, fever, hypotension
- Microembolisation
- Hypothermia
- Hypoxia
- Air embolism
- Haemolytic transfusion
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### **Delayed reactions**

- Delayed sensitisation usually complicates future transfusion or pregnancy due to Rh factor.
- Delayed haemolytic transfusion reaction
- Jaundice due to bilirubin overload from blood transfusion
- Diseases transmitted from donors like malaria, viral hepatitis, AIDS etc.
- Transfusional haemosiderosis
- Thrombophlebitis
- Immunosuppression
- GVHD