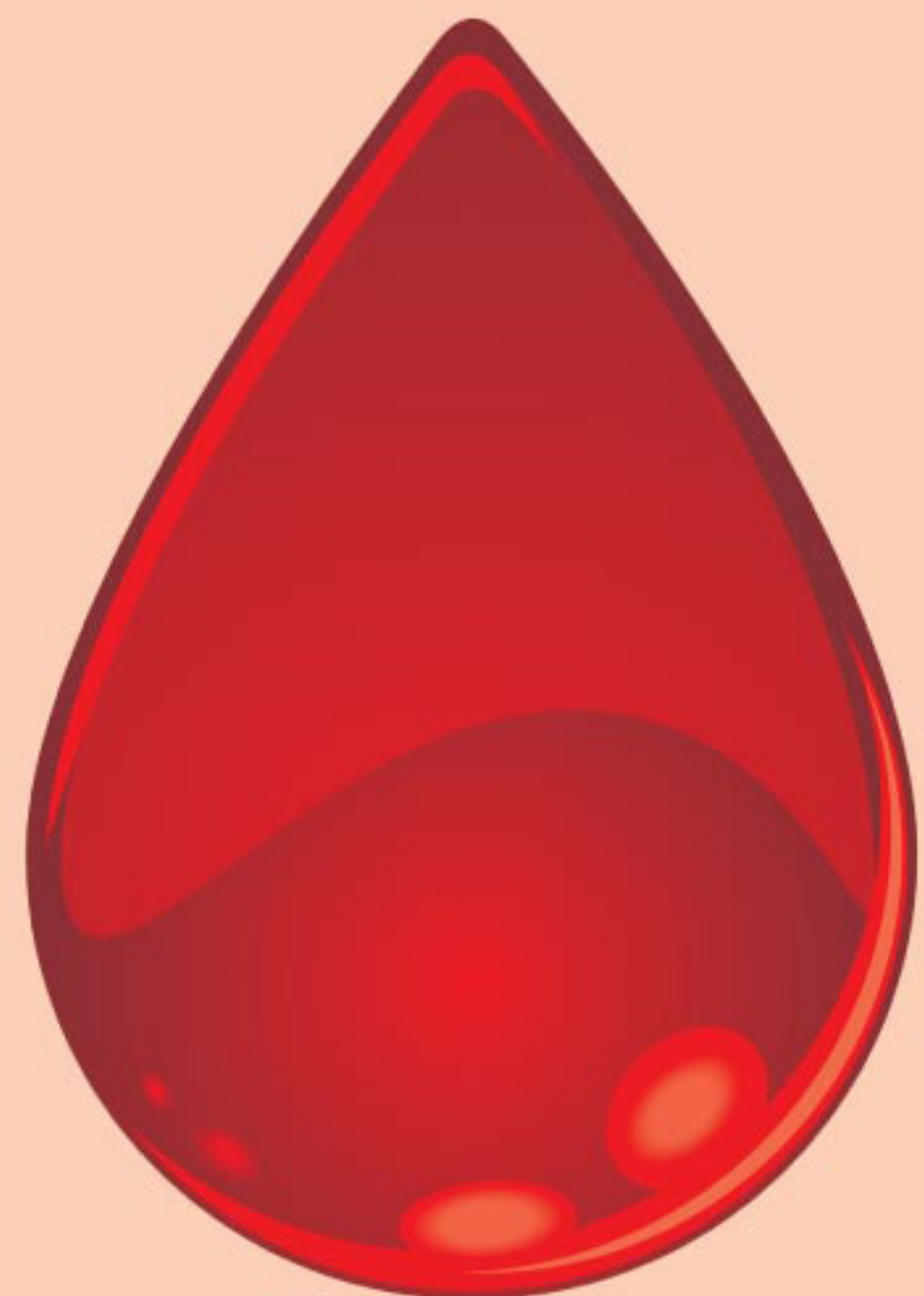


Blood Transfusion Service

輸血服務



If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. [1 John 4:15]

What is blood transfusion?

Blood transfusion is the process of infusing whole blood or blood components (such as red blood cells, platelet and plasma) prescribed by doctor to a patient in order to achieve a therapeutic effect.



Why is blood transfusion needed?

Depending on the clinical conditions of patients, blood transfusions are administered to replenish blood lost or to correct serious or life-threatening conditions due to low blood counts or deficiency of clotting factor(s).

Red blood cells carry oxygen in your blood to your vital organs. They can alleviate the symptoms of anaemia and bleeding. Platelet can prevent or stop bleeding by forming blood clots at the site of injury. Platelet transfusion may be required for patients who have a low number of platelets or whose platelets do not work efficiently. Plasma is a fluid that contains various substances including the clotting factors that help blood to clot.

A doctor prescribes a blood transfusion according to the clinical conditions of a patient. If you have any questions about blood transfusion, please consult your attending doctor.

What steps are taken to ensure the safeness of blood for transfusion?

Blood supply and safety in Hong Kong are maintained at a high standard comparable to most developed countries in Europe and North America. The Blood Transfusion Service (BTS) in Hong Kong only collects blood from volunteer non-remunerated donors. Donors are screened by health enquiry questionnaire and interview on their health and potential risk factors for diseases before give blood. All donated blood units are subject to extensive laboratory tests in accordance with the well-established international standards. The tests include classifying blood groups and screenings for hepatitis B and C, HIV, HTLV and syphilis.

In addition, the BTS has implemented the ISO 9001 quality system and the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration standards on Good Manufacturing Practice in order to further ensure blood quality and safety. Should a doctor anticipates that a patient need blood transfusion, a blood sample will be taken from the patient with clear identification for our hospital blood bank to crossmatch for blood that is compatible to your blood group.



What are the risks of receiving blood transfusion?

Similar to the other medical procedures and treatment, there are risks associated with blood transfusion. Below is a list of risks related to transfusion :

Allergy

Allergy, such as skin rash and itching, is usually a mild reaction and is easily controlled by medication. Severe allergic reactions are very rare, say less than 1 in 100,000 cases.

Haemolysis

Haemolysis occurs when the blood groups of the donor and blood receiver are mismatched. The immune system of blood receiver destroys the red cells in the donor's blood after infusion. Bad hemolytic reaction is exceptionally rare, occurring at an incidence of less than 1 in 100,000 cases. If it does occur, kidney failure and other serious and even life-threatening complications will be resulted. The Blood Bank at Hong Kong Baptist Hospital takes great care in cross-matching to ensure that compatible blood is given to prevent the undesired reaction.

Fever

Some patients may feel chills and feverish during or shortly after blood transfusion. Whether treatment is needed depends on the patient's clinical condition as the chilly or feverish feeling often subsides without any consequences. However, patients who have history of febrile reaction with transfusions in the past should report to their doctors.

Transfusion-transmitted Infection

At present, the risks of transfusion-transmitted infection cannot be eliminated completely by the conventional testing technology. It is estimated that the chance of acquiring HIV infection via blood transfusion is less than 1 in one million cases, while that for hepatitis B and hepatitis C is about 3 in 10,000 cases and 1 in 300,000 cases respectively.

What are the risks of not receiving a transfusion?

In simple terms, the purpose of blood transfusion is to replenish the blood or blood component(s) that a patient needs. Red blood cells carry oxygen in blood to vital organs, such as the brain and heart. A decrease in oxygen level could bring damage to these organs and thus transfusion may be needed as prevention. If patients have a low platelet count or a deficiency in clotting factor, they are at a higher chance of bleeding and serious major organ damage maybe resulted in some cases.

If you need further information, please consult your attending doctor.



The Blood Bank at Hong Kong Baptist Hospital operates round the clock. If there are any enquiries about blood transfusion, please call our blood bank at the following time slots:

Enquiry Hours

Monday to Friday	9:00am to 1:00pm
	2:00pm to 5:00pm
Saturday	9:00am to 1:00pm

 **香港浸信會醫院**
Hong Kong Baptist Hospital

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