



Procedure Information Sheet

Introduction

Blood transfusion is the process of infusing whole blood or blood components (such as red blood cells, platelet and plasma) prescribed by a doctor to a patient in order to achieve a therapeutic effect. Red blood cells carry oxygen in our blood to our vital organs. They can alleviate the symptoms of anaemia and help to control bleeding. Platelets 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. 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 platelet counts or deficiency of clotting factor(s). A doctor would prescribe blood transfusion therapy according to the clinical conditions of the patient. If you have any doubts or questions, you should ask your doctor.

Indication

- Anaemia
- Replenish blood lost
- Low blood counts or deficiency of clotting factor(s)

The Operation / Procedure

1. Before blood transfusion, a blood sample will be taken to cross match for compatible blood grouping.
2. Intravenous puncture is needed for the blood transfusion.

Before the Operation / Procedure

A written consent is required.

After the Operation / Procedure

1. During blood transfusion, your blood pressure, pulse, temperature and other vital signs will be monitored.
2. Should there be any discomfort experienced during blood transfusion, report to the health care professionals immediately.

Risk and Complication

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

1.1 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, i.e. less than 1 in 100,000 cases.

1.2 Haemolysis

Haemolysis occurs when the blood group of the donor and blood receiver do not match. The immune system of blood receiver would then destroy the red cells in the donor's blood after infusion. Severe haemolytic 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 might occur. The blood bank of our hospital takes great care in cross-matching to ensure that compatible blood is given to prevent the undesired reactions.

Patient's Label

Patient Name: _____

Hospital No: _____

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1.3 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 transfusion in the past should inform their doctors.

1.4 Transfusion-transmitted Infection.

At present, the risks of transfusion-transmitted infection cannot be eliminated completely by the conventional testing technology. Based on the observed sero-prevalance of the local blood donor pool and the window period of the infection, it is estimated that locally the residual risk of HIV in a blood product is less than one in 2.4 million, hepatitis C is less than one in eight millions and hepatitis B is less than one in fifty eight thousands. It is not feasible to generalise the exact risk of every infection for any patient receiving blood transfusion as there are many variable factors that would affect the risk estimation, such as the immune / infection status of the patient, the quantity of blood transfused etc. The likelihood and clinical impact of transfusion-transmitted Zika virus infection in pregnancy remains unknown.

What are the risks of not having a transfusion?

In simple terms, the purpose of giving blood transfusion to you is to replenish the blood or blood component(s) you need. Red blood cells carry the oxygen in your blood to your vital organs, such as the brain or heart. A decrease in oxygen can result in damage to these organs. Transfusion may be needed to prevent such damage. At the same time, if you have a low platelet count or a deficiency in clotting factors, you are at a higher chance of bleeding. In some cases, this can result in serious haemorrhage and major organ damage.

Disclaimer

This leaflet only provides general information pertaining to this operation / procedure. While common risks and complications are described, the list is not exhaustive, and the degree of risk could also vary between patients. Please contact your doctor for detailed information and specific enquiry.

Reference

1. Smart patient website by Hospital Authority: Blood Transfusion (8/5/2017)
2. Hong Kong Baptist Hospital, Leaflet: Blood Transfusion Service (10/2010)
3. Hospital Authority Information Leaflet for Patients: Risk Assessment for Zika Virus Infection through Blood Transfusion. (7/2017)

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Patient's Signature: _____ Date: _____