

2023 Annual SHOT Report – Supplementary information

Chapter 23: Cell Salvage (CS)

Additional case studies not included in the main 2023 Annual SHOT Report.

Case 23.2: Hypotension in a patient receiving autologous red cells

A patient was undergoing vascular surgery where cell salvage was being used. On infusion of the cell salvaged blood there was marked hypotension with the lowest systolic BP recorded at 48mmHg. The infusion was stopped, and the BP improved. Metaraminol and ephedrine were used to stabilise the patient and the remaining 109mL of cell salvaged blood discarded. A LDF was not used for salvaged blood reinfusion on this occasion.

Case 23.3: Hypotension in a patient with post-partum haemorrhage receiving autologous red cells intraoperatively

A patient underwent an emergency caesarean section with a starting Hb of 9.9g/L. Significant post-partum haemorrhage in the order of 2.1L resulted in a two-unit allogeneic blood transfusion without incident. Reinfusion of salvage red cells was then commenced through a LDF. After approximately 50mL had been infused the patient's BP dropped from 160/65mmHg to 60/30mmHg, with concomitant increase in heart rate and respiratory rate, and a drop in oxygen saturation. The infusion was stopped, and the giving set changed. Correction of BP with vasopressors resulted in resolution of symptoms, with the patient remaining alert and stable.