SHOT Myth Busters

SHOT Serious Hazards of Transfusion

National Pathology Week 2021

CMV negative blood components are those that are collected from donors who have been tested and found negative for CMV IgG antibodies. CMV negative blood components are recommended for intrauterine and top-up transfusions in neonates, and elective transfusions in pregnancy.

Want to know more… just click the link

MYTH: 'If components are leucodepleted they do not need to be CMV negative'

FACT: This is true, but with the important exception of granulocyte components. These cannot be leucodepleted and so do need to be CMV negative or matched with recipient.

Hyperhaemolysis (HH) is a severe and potentially life-threatening complication of transfusions. HH is characterised by destruction of transfused and autologous red blood cells.

Want to know more… just click the link

MYTH: 'HH only occurs in patients with sickle cell disease (SCD)'

FACT: HH is predominantly seen in SCD patients but also occurs in patients with other haemoglobinopathies or haematological disorders.

Excessive volume of red cell transfusion remains a significant factor in cases of transfusion-associated circulatory overload (TACO) in non-bleeding patients. This can be minimised by weight-adjusted red cell dosing.

Want to know more… just click the link

MYTH: 'Weight adjusted dosing is only needed for paediatric patients'

FACT: Weight adjusted dosing is always needed for paediatric transfusions. Weight adjusted dosing for red cell transfusions should also be used for non-bleeding adult patients, especially those with low body weight to reduce TACO risk.

Patients with IgA deficiency may develop anti-IgA. It has been suggested that the link between IgA deficiency and transfusion reactions is not evidence-based. Reactions reported are typically allergic/anaphylactic in nature.

Want to know more… just click the link

MYTH: 'IgA deficient patients always need IgA deficient components '

FACT: Most IgA-deficient patients with or without anti-IgA-antibodies will not experience severe reactions with standard components. All requests for special components such as plasma-reduced components or components from IgA-deficient donors must be discussed with and authorised by transfusion Consultants from respective UK Blood Service.