

Blood Transfusion in Thalassemia Syndrome



Haemovigilance

"Haemovigilance is the set of surveillance procedures covering the entire blood transfusion chain, from the donation and processing of blood and its components, through to their provision and transfusion to patients, and including their follow-up"

Blood Transfusion in Thalassemia Minor

Infection

Surgery

Pregnancy

Aging

CBC Profile in 1st Trimester Age:19 yr **Sex: Female RBC:4.9 Hb:9.7 HCT:28.3 MCV:59.2 MCH:20.6 MCHC:34 RDW:15.1 PLT:339000 Ferritin:65** HbA: 92.4 HbF: 2.2 HbA2: 5.4 **Diagnosis:** Beta-Thal Minor

CBC Profile in 3st Trimester **Sex: Female** Age:19 yr **RBC:3.7 Hb:6.8 HCT:24.5 MCV:55.2 MCHC:30 MCH:19.6 RDW:25.1 PLT:256000** Ferritin:55 what is your Plan?

Present Hb,

Pre Pregnancy Hb,

T. Minor and Pregnancy

In Which Trimester is Pregnancy

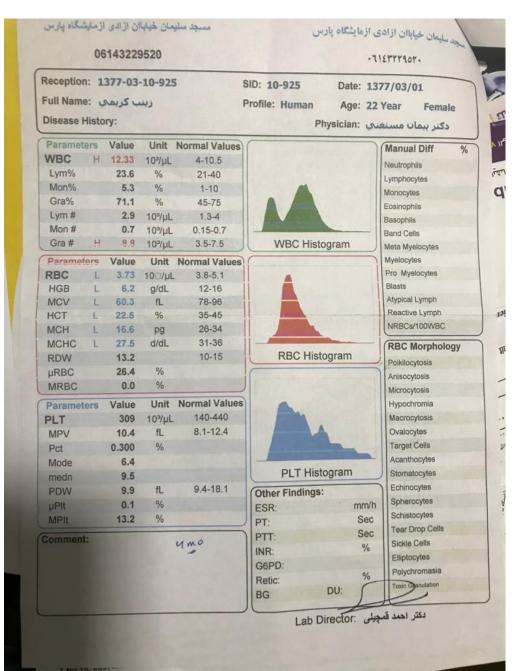
Clinical Condition,

Transfusions in TI are indicated where the following are observed:

- failure to thrive in childhood in the presence of significant anemia;
- * emergence of bone deformities;
- * increasing anemia not attributable to rectifiable factors;
- * evidence of a clinically relevant tendency to thrombosis;
- * presence of leg ulcers;
- * development of pulmonary hypertension;
- * delayed or poor pubertal growth spurt
- * progressive splenic enlargement.

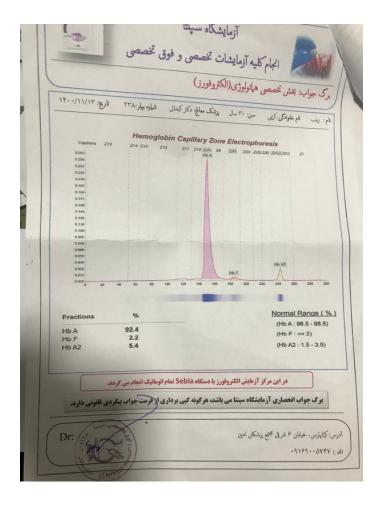
Thalassemia Intermediate

WBC:47.7 Age:47 yr Sex:F RBC:3.7 Hb:8.2 HCT:24.5 MCV:60.2 MCH:18.6 MCHC:27.5 RDW:13.2 PLT:305000 Ferritin:65 500NRBC/100WBC



Age:22 yr **RBC:3.7 HCT:22.5 MCV:60.2 MCH:18.6 MCHC:27.5 RDW:13.2 PLT:305000** Ferritin:65

Sex:F Hb:6.2



HbA: 92.4 HbF: 2.2 HbA2: 5.4

CD[♥]⁹-37+Triple alpha

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| Age at First Transfusion Alloimmunisa | tion Rate | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| < 1 year old | 7.7% | |
| > 1 year old | 27.9% | [Machail-Merianou et al, 1987] |
| | | |
| Age at First Transfusion Alloimmunisa | tion Rate | |
| < 3 years old | 20.9% | |
| > 3 years old | 47.5% | [Spanos et al, 1990] |

Alloimunisation

Development of one or more specific red cell antibodies (alloimmunisation) is a common complication of chronic transfusion therapy

- Important to monitor patients carefully for the development of new antibodies
- Eliminate donors with the corresponding antigens.
- Anti-E, anti-C and anti-Kell alloantibodies are most common.

5-10% of patients present with alloantibodies against rare erythrocyte antigens or with warm or cold antibodies of unidentified specificity.

Criteria for initiating transfusion therapy

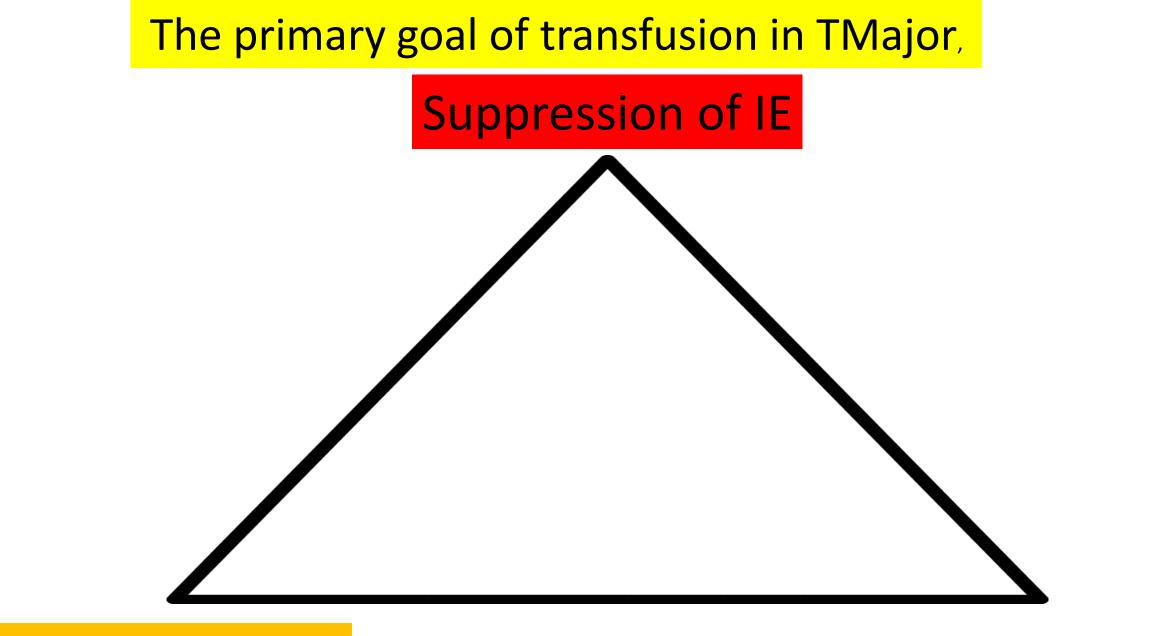
Confirmed diagnosis of thalassemia. Laboratory criteria:

- Haemoglobin level <7 g/dl on 2 occasions, > 2 weeks apart (excluding all other contributory causes such as infections) AND/OR Clinical criteria irrespective of hemoglobin level:

- > Significant symptoms of anemia
- > Poor growth / failure to thrive

> Complications from excessive intramedullary hematopoiesis such as pathological fractures and facial changes

> Clinically significant extramedullary haematopoiesis



correction of anemia

Reduced absorption of iron from the GL

Aims of blood transfusion in T Major

The aim of blood transfusion in thalassemia is to deliver a **safe and effective transfusion** regimen whilst minimising the burden of transfusion therapy on everyday life.

•

An effective transfusion regimen will result in:

- Good growth and development
- Good energy levels
- Sufficient suppression of intra and extramedullary hematopoiesis

Transfusion in T Major

Before starting a transfusion programme the child must have an extended erythrocyte antigen typing (at least ABO, Rh (D, C, c, E, e) and Kell, but preferably an even more detailed phenotype) in order to minimize the risk of alloimmunization

Optimal Goal of Transfusion in T Major

The optimal goal for most patients is a pre-transfusion hemoglobin concentration of 9–10.5 g/dL

Some recommendations state a mean hemoglobin concentration of approximately **11.5 g/dL (WHO)**.

Standard Transfusion Regimen for Thalassaemia Major

Regular blood transfusions administered every 2-5 weeks

Maintain the pre-transfusion Hb > 9-10.5g/dl

Rationale

promotes normal growth

allows normal physical activities

adequately suppresses bone marrow activity in most patients minimises transfusional iron accumulation [Cazzola 1995,1997]

Modifications

<u>A higher target 11-12 g/dl</u> may be appropriate for patients with *heart disease* or other medical conditions and for those patients who do not achieve adequate *suppression of bone marrow activity* at the lower haemoglobin level. Although <u>shorter intervals</u> between transfusions may reduce overall blood requirements, the choice of interval must take into account other factors such as the patient's work or school schedule

Relationship between transfusion regimen and suppression of erythropoiesis

52 patients with thalassaemia major whose mean pre-transfusion haemoglobin levels ranged from 8.6 to 10*9g/dl

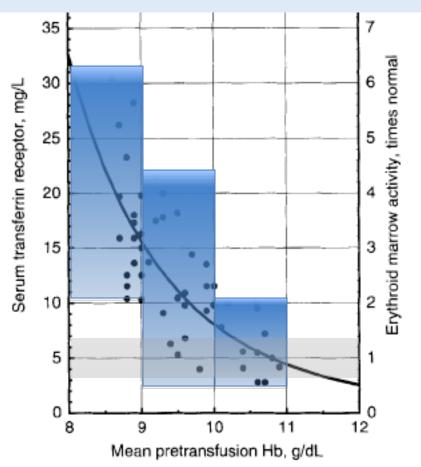
Multiple regression analysis showed that serum transferrin receptor was the parameter more closely related to mean pretransfusion haemoglobin (r = -0.77, P < 0.001)

Pretransfusion Hb 10-11g/dl- 1-2x normal

Pretransfusion Hb 9-10 g/dl- 1-4x normal

Pretransfusion Hb 9.6-9 g/dl- 2-6 x norma

{Cazzola, 1995 #906}



Guidelines for choosing how much blood to transfuse

amaterit of Demon Ded Calle

| | | Haematocrit of Donor Red Cells | | | | |
|---|--------|--------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|--|
| | | 50% | 60% | 75% | 80% | |
| Target Increase in Haemoglobin Level | 1 g/dl | 4.2 ml/kg | 3.5 ml/kg | 2.8 ml/kg | 2.6 ml/kg | |
| | 2 g/dl | 8.4 ml/kg | 7.0 ml/kg | 5.6 ml/kg | 5.2 ml/kg | |
| | 3 g/dl | 12.6 ml/kg | 10.5 ml/kg | 8.4 ml/kg | 7.8 ml/kg | |
| | 4 g/dl | 16.8 ml/kg | 14.0 ml/kg | 11.2 ml/kg | 10.4 ml/kg | |

As an example, to raise the haemoglobin level by 4 g/dl in a patient weighing 40 kg and receiving AS-1 blood with a haematocrit of 60% would require 560 ml. This calculation assumes a blood volume of 70 ml/kg of body weight.

Thalassaemia International Federation Guidelines

Packed RBC: Desired Hb - Patient Hb*3.5*patient weight

The post-transfusion Hb should not be greater than **14-15g/dl**

If the annual consumption exceeds more than 200–220 ml kg of packed erythrocytes, one should consider the development of alloantibodies or splenectomy.

Adverse reactions

Acute hemolytic reactions Delayed transfusion reactions Autoimmune hemolytic anemia Non-hemolytic febrile transfusion reactions Allergic reactions **Transfusion-related acute lung injury (TRALI)** Graft versus host disease (GVHD)

Blood products for special patient populations

Washed red cells

may be beneficial for repeated severe allergic transfusion reactions.

Saline washing removes plasma proteins in the donor product that are the target for antibodies in the recipient.

Other clinical states that may require washed red cell products include *IgA deficiency*, in which the recipient's preformed antibody to IgA may result in an anaphylactic reaction. Washing usually does not result in adequate leucocyte reduction and therefore should be used in conjunction with filtration.

Frozen red cells

used to maintain a supply of rare donor units for certain patients who have unusual red cell antibodies of who are missing common red cell antigens.

The Council of Europe is promoting an international network of rare blood donor units

Neocyte or young red cell transfusion

may modestly reduce blood requirements. However, patients are exposed to a higher number of donors



