



Patient information

Blood transfusion

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Introduction

This brochure provides you with the necessary information in preparation of/and administering a bloodtransfusion. It is impossible to describe all details for every situation in this brochure. Therefore, please do not hesitate to ask your doctor or nurse additional questions if necessary.

Please bring this brochure with you when you come to the hospital.

Description and purpose of the treatment

During their stay in the hospital, some patients undergo a treatment or intervention, which requires the administration of blood.

Blood transfusion is now safer than ever. There are good reasons for this:

- Only healthy people can give blood.
- People who give blood (blood donors) do so voluntarily and are not paid for it.
- Each bag of donor blood is checked for two types of jaundice viruses (hepatitis B and C), the sexually transmitted disease (hepatitis B and C), the venereal disease Syphilis and the HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) that can cause AIDS.



Thanks to all these precautions, **the risk of contamination through a blood transfusion is extremely small.**

Despite all checks, **allergic reactions** can occur in some patients. However, this does not happen very often. Recognisable allergic symptoms are fever, chills, itching or red skin. These symptoms can be treated with medication.

Preparation for blood transfusion

It is important that the blood 'fits' the person who receives it. Therefore, prior to a blood transfusion, blood is taken twice to determine your **blood group and rhesus factor**. This double test is necessary to ensure the administration of the correct blood group.



Some people have antibodies in their blood which target foreign blood cells. These substances may be present after a pregnancy or previous transfusion. The presence of these antibodies is also detected in your blood.

You will receive a blood type card with all the important transfusion data on it: blood type, rhesus factor and any transfusion data. **Keep your blood type card in a safe place.** On any subsequent admissions or transfusions, you may be asked for it.

Just before you receive a blood transfusion, a nurse will check to ensure the compatible with yours. The nurse checks **your identity** using a scanning system. The nurse will also ask for your surname, first name and date of birth.

Course of the blood transfusion

For the administration of blood products (red blood cells, plasma or platelets) it is necessary to puncture a vein. The puncturing of the vein is usually done in the forearm with a sterile needle that is connected to the blood bag via a sterile tube. The duration of the transfusion varies according to the type of blood product administered. The amount of blood that you should receive depends on the severity of the blood cell shortage, coagulation factors or platelets.



It is important that you remain in the room during the transfusion so that the assigned nurse can monitor your blood pressure and temperature and take immediate action in the event of any side effects.

To conclude

If, after reading this brochure, you still have questions or comments, please contact your doctor or nurse. We sincerely hope that this brochure has helped you understand the process of a blood transfusion.

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