

# The ABO and Rh system

# **Transfusion Medicine**

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## Main learning endpoints!

- ✓ Chemical structure
- ✓ Inheritance pathways
- ✓ AB0 and Rh antibodies and their importance in transfusion
- ✓ Principles of AB0 and Rh typing

#### Immunohematology and Transfusion Medicine- Lab







HEMAGGLUTINATION IS THE PROCESS BY WHICH RED BLOOD CELLS AGGLUTINATE, MEANING CLUMP OR CLOG. THE AGGLUTIN INVOLVED IN HEMAGGLUTINATION IS CALLED HEMAGGLUTININ.

HEMOLYSIS IS THE RUPTURING (LYSIS) OF RED BLOOD CELLS AND THE RELEASE OF THEIR CONTENTS (HB) INTO THE PLASMA.



#### **TABLE OF BLOOD GROUP ANTIGENS**

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The red cell membrane contains many anchored surface proteins and proteins that cross the lipid bilayer. Many of these proteins are polymorphic and carry different blood groups.

Today, 38 registered blood group systems, with more than 300 antigens

The ABO, the first blood group discovered system, still represent the most important

1

1(5)

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		001	002	003	004	00	)5	006	007	008	009	010	011	012	Tot						
001	ABO	Α	В	A,B	A1										4	•					
002	MNS	м	N	S	s	U		Не	Mi <sup>a</sup>	Mc	Vw	Mur	Mg	Vr	4	9					
003	P1PK	P1		P <sup>k</sup>	NOR										3	1					
004	RH	D	с	E	с	е		f	Ce	Cw	C×	v	Ew	G	5	5					
005	LU	Luª	Lub	Lu3	Lu4	Lu	15	Lu6	Lu7	Lu8	Lu9		Lu11	Lu12	2	7					
006	KEL	к	k	Kpa	Крь	1															Total
007	LE	Leª	Leb	Le <sup>ab</sup>	Le <sup>bH</sup>	1	System	n	Antigen r		003	004	005	006	007	008	009	010	011	012	in
008	FY	Fya	Fyb	Fy3			020	CT.	001	002											system
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012	XG	Xg <sup>a</sup>	CD99			+	024	ОК	Oka	OKGV	OKVM										3
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014	DO	Doa	Dob	Gya	Hy	+.	026	ЈМН	IMH	ЈМНК	JMHL	JMHG	ЈМНМ	JMHQ	JMHN						7
015	со	Co <sup>a</sup>	Co <sup>b</sup>	Co3	Co4	÷.	027	I	1												1
015	LW					+	028	GLOB	Р			PX2									2
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Table of blood group antigens v.9.0\_12th July 2019

### History

- **1900** Discovery of the ABO system (K. Landsteiner)
- **1907** the first successful blood transfusion was performed by Reuben Ottenberg at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York
- 1915 The use of sodium citrate as blood anti- coagulant (R. Lewisohn)
- 1917 First Blood Bank
- **1921** «First blood donor Service» (O. Percy , London)
- **1943** ACD became the standard anticoagulant (J.F. Loutit, P.L. Mollison)
- **1950** The use of the plastic blood container (C.Walter,W.P. Murphy)
- 1951 First use of a cell separator (E. Cohn)

#### 14<sup>th</sup> June birthday of Karl Landsteiner





Cerca con Google

Mi sento fortunato



The discovery of the ABO blood group, over 100 years ago, caused great excitement. Until then, all blood had been assumed to be the same, and the often tragic consequences of blood transfusions were not understood.

# The discovery of Blood group

In 1901, Karl Landsteiner discovered the AB0 blood group antigens.

By systematically mixing the RBC from a number of individuals (his colleagues) with the sera from others, he found that the RBCs from some individuals were agglutinated by the sera from others.

He called the antigens A and B.

A third blood group without the agglutination properties of A and B, was later called O. One year later, the fourth blood group, AB, was added to the ABO blood group system (discovered by De Castello and Sturli)

A pattern of four major groups emerged: A, B, AB, or 0. Individuals have either A or B antigen on their cells, a combination of A&B, or neither (group 0).

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This discovery earned Landsteiner a Nobel Prize

# Here we can see an agglutination pattern in a A+ individual

### The AB0 System and the Landsteiner's Law

- ✓ Two antigens (A and B) found on RBCs, tissue cells, fluid and secretions
- ✓ Four different groups: A, B, AB, 0
- whichever ABO antigens are lacking in a given person's RBCs, that person will always have the corresponding antibody or isohemagglutinin

	Group A	Group B	Group AB	Group O
Red blood cell type			AB	
Antibodies in Plasma	Anti-B	Anti-A	None	イトンド イトンド Anti-A and Anti-B
Antigens in Red Blood Cell	¶ A antigen	<b>↑</b> B antigen	¶ ↑ A and B antigens	None



### The ABO System and the Landsteiner's Law

	Group A	Group B	Group AB	Group O
Red blood cell type			AB	
Antibodies in Plasma	Anti-B	Anti-A	None	Anti-A and Anti-B
Antigens in Red Blood Cell	<b>₽</b> A antigen	<b>↑</b> B antigen	↑ ↑ A and B antigens	None

- Group A individuals always have anti-B in their plasma
- Group B individuals always have anti-A in their plasma
- ✓ Group O individuals always have anti-A and anti-B and anti-AB
- ✓ Group AB individuals don't have any isohemoagglutinins



Whether they are IgG or IgM, ABO antibodies can readily activate complement!!! INCOMPATIBILITIES CAN CAUSE LIFE THREATENING TRANSFUSION REACTIONS!!!

## Why do we have natural antibodies?

Antibodies are usually not present at birth but are present in most individuals by about 6 months of age.

In 1960s Springer and colleagues showed ABO isohemoagglutinins were produced as a response to bacterial antigens.

Infants are exposed to a variety of microorganisms and foodstuffs which have antigenic determinants that are cross reactive with the blood group substances and which can thus provide the stimulation for isoantibody formation (ie E. coli has type B like Ag).

These cross reacting Ags induce formation of Abs in individuals lacking these antigens because epitopes are too similar to self and a state of self tolerance to these epitopes should exist.



#### **The AB0 Genes**



✓ DO NOT ENCODE A AND B ANTIGENS DIRECTLY

✓ They encode TRANSFERASE ENZYMES which catalyse the addition of specific monosaccharides to oligosaccharide precursor chain having a terminal galactose

✓ H antigen form a precursor oligosaccharide necessary to form A antigen and B antigen



# **AB0** genetics

- Chromosome 9q34.1 q34.2
- There are three main allelic forms: A, B and O

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11

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31

#1 22

"

H

11

X

H

51

- A and B co-dominant
- 0 is the recessive form encoding a nonfunctional enzyme
- Each individual has a pair of chromosomes so has two genes for the AB0 group



## Phenotype vs genotype

Two chromosomes



Two genes



GENO	PHENOTYPE	
А	В	AB
А	0	А
А	А	А
В	0	В
В	В	В
0	0	0



# Phenotype vs genotype



### Phenotype vs genotype BD BD BD **DD** B

# Phenotype vs genotype



## Phenotype vs genotype



### A and B antigens



 Not fully developed at birth (few copies of antigens on the cells)

✓ Antigens detectable as early as 5 weeks after conception

✓ Complete expression at 6 months

## Other cells holding A, B substances

- ✓ Plasma
- ✓ Leucocytes
- ✓ Platelets
- ✓ Epithelial cells
- ✓ Amniotic liquid cells
- ✓ Sperms



 Cells of the endhothelium of: capillaries, veins, arteries



# The H gene



- The H locus is found on chromosome 19
- Why is therefore included in the AB0 blood group system?

Although H is encoded by a gene on a different chromosome from ABO, the H blood group system is considered in this chapter because H is a precursor of A and B.

### **ABH System Hh genes**



- Two alleles: **H** and **h**
- Located on Chromosome 19
- H gene, dominant, has a higher frequency (> 99,9%)
- h gene is called "amorphous gene"; homozygosity (hh) is extremely rare

The product of H gene is a α-L-fucosiltransferase, that adds a L-fucose molecule on the common substance, with the consequent formation of H substance This is a crucial step for developing A and B specifities



### **Chemical Structure**

All normal individuals synthesize a common core glycan called the **H** Ag that is attached to a polypeptide backbone (precursor).

- ✓ A INDIVIDUALS POSSESS AN A GENE, GTA, A GLYCOSYLTRANSFERASE THAT ADDS A TERMINAL N-ACETYLGALACTOSAMINE TO THEIR H AGS
- ✓ THE B ALLELE ENZYME GTB, A DIFFERENT GLYCOSYLTRANSFERASE ADDS A TERMINAL GALACTOSE TO THE H AGS.
- ✓ TYPE 0 BLOOD HAVE ONLY H SUBSTANCE BECAUSE IT HAVE A NON-FUNCTIONAL GENE.





 $\checkmark$  GTA and GTB are almost identical, with only four aminoacid changes.

### H ANTIGEN CONCENTRATION IN RED BLOOD CELLS

### 0 > B > A > AB





Bombay Phenotype: a dangerous recipient



Homozygosity for genes h (Oh)

Detected in Bombay by Bhende et al., 1952

- Absence of H substance -> lack of A and/or B substance
- Presence in serum of anti-A,-B,-H
- Definition of "apparent 0" o "0<sub>h</sub>"
- It is recognized if the serum is tested against group 0 cells causing strong agglutination.
  - Have anti-A, -B, -A, B and -H
  - Can only be transfused with Bombay blood <0.01%</li>

## **ABO frequency**

IT'S FASCINATING TO OBSERVE HOW FREQUENCIES DIFFER IN SELECTED POPULATIONS AND ETHNIC GROUPS DUE TO THE GEOGRAPHICAL SPREAD AND A CONTINUOUS PROCESS OF NATURAL SELECTION AGAINST ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS SUCH AS DISEASES, CLIMATE, HUMIDITY, ALTITUDE, ETC. WILL CONTINUE.

- Frequencies differ in selected populations and ethnic groups
- Group B is higher in African and Asian populations
- Frequency in Caucasian population:
- ✓ group 0 45%
- ✓ group A 40%
- ✓ group B 11%
- ✓ group AB 4%.



# **ABO frequency**

#### Beyond immunohaematology: the role of the ABO blood group in human diseases

Giancarlo Maria Liumbruno<sup>1</sup>, Massimo Franchini<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Immunohaematology, Transfusion Medicine and Clinical Pathology Units, "San Giovanni Calibita" Fatebenefratelli Hospital, AFAR, Rome; <sup>2</sup>Department of Transfusion Medicine and Haematology, "Carlo Poma" Hospital, Mantua, Italy Many authors tried identifying the role of blood antigens in developing diseases. One of the most important examples is represented by malaria

Individual of blood group O seems to be proteced against malaria...

Frequencies differ in selected populations and ethnic groups as a consequence of the geographical spread and a continuos process of natural selection against environmental factors such as diseases, climate, humidity, altitude...

The ABO system is important because the original allele, encoding glycosylation with the A sugar, acts as an adhesion ligand with infected red blood cells thus promoting rosette formation with uninfected red blood cells and adhesion to vascular endothelium, which cause vaso-occlusion and severe disease. The least rosette formation is observed in individual with blood group O, thereby explaining the prevalence of this blood group in areas in which malaria is endemic

### Blood Type Biochemistry and Human Disease

#### **Blood Type Biochemistry and Human Disease**

D Rose Ewald and Susan CJ Sumner<sup>\*</sup> RTI International, Discovery Sciences, 3040 East Cornwallis Drive, Research Triangle Park, NC, 27709



Over the last years, our knowledge on hundreds of blood groups antigens, classified into 38 blood systems, in terms of structural homology, secondary structure and biological functions (structural proteins, enzymes, transporters, channels, receptors) has increased, but there is still much research to be done ...

ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN BLOOD TYPE AND DISEASE HAVE BEEN STUDIED SINCE THE EARLY 1900S WHEN RESEARCHERS DETERMINED THAT ANTIBODIES AND ANTIGENS ARE INHERITED.

Ewald DR, Sumner SC.. *Wiley Interdiscip Rev Syst Biol Med*. 2016;8(6):517–535.

### Blood Type Biochemistry and Human Disease

#### **Blood Type Biochemistry and Human Disease**

D Rose Ewald and Susan CJ Sumner\* RTI International, Discovery Sciences, 3040 East Cornwallis Drive, Research Triangle Park, NC, 27709



## Blood antigens can serve as receptors and ligands for microbes, and may play a role...

Although the **exact mechanisms are not yet known** that will explain all of the reported associations **between blood group antigens and disease**, what is known about their structure and functions provides some intriguing clues.

An unexpected number of the antigenic structures found on RBCs act as **cell adhesion molecules (CAMs)**; some contribute to normal RBC development and some play a role in human disease. These antigens can serve as receptors and ligands for microbes...

Ewald DR, Sumner SC.. *Wiley Interdiscip Rev Syst Biol Med*. 2016;8(6):517–535.

### **Blood Type Biochemistry and Human Disease**

DISEASE	RISK FACTOR	BLOOD GROUP/ANTIGENS
VASCULAR DISORDERS, VENOUS AND ARTERIAL THROMBOEMBOLISM, CORONARY HEART DISEASE, ISCHEMIC STROKE, MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION	REDUCED CLEARANCE OF VON WILLEBRAND FACTOR AND FVIII	GROUPS A > AB > B
PLAGUE, CHOLERA, TUBERCULOSIS, MUMPS	ANTIGEN PROFILE	GROUP O
GONORRHEA, TUBERCULOSIS, S. PNEUMONIAE, E. COLI, SALMONELLA	ANTIGEN PROFILE	GROUP B
SMALLPOX, E. COLI, SALMONELLA	ANTIGEN PROFILE	GROUP AB
N. MENINGITIDES, H. INFLUENZA, C. ALBICANS, S. PNEUMONIAE, E. COLI URINARY TRACT INFECTIONS, S. PYOGENES, V. CHOLERA	ANTIGEN PROFILE	NON-SECRETORS
H. PYLORI	STRAIN-DEPENDENT	GROUP A; 95% NON-O
PEPTIC ULCERS, GASTRODUODENAL DISEASE	SECRETOR STATUS, H. PYLORI STRAIN	ALL NON-SECRETORS; GROUP O

Disease risk is clearly multifactorial and causation is not implied by association, but blood group antigens may be one of the predisposing factors that contribute to or prevent disease processes.

Ewald DR, Sumner SC.. Wiley Interdiscip Rev Syst Biol Med. 2016;8(6):517–535.





Annals of Hematology https://doi.org/10.1007/s00277-020-04169-1

ORIGINAL ARTICLE



Blood type and outcomes in patients with COVID-19

Christopher A. Latz<sup>1</sup> · Charles DeCarlo<sup>1</sup> · Laura Boitano<sup>1</sup> · C. Y. Maximilian Png<sup>1</sup> · Rushad Patell<sup>2</sup> · Mark F. Conrad<sup>1</sup> · Matthew Eagleton<sup>1</sup> · Anahita Dua<sup>1</sup>

Received: 21 June 2020 / Accepted: 6 July 2020 © Springer-Verlag GmbH Germany, part of Springer Nature 2020 A curiosity regarding the association between SARS-COv2 infection and blood type.

In the last months, some authors showed that the ABO polymorphism impacts the COVID-19 infection risk, particularly blood group 0 individuals who have a decreased risk of contracting the infection.

#### Key Points

- COVID-19 patients with blood group A or AB are at increased risk for requiring mechanical ventilation vs those with blood group O or B.
- COVID-19 patients with blood group A or AB appear to exhibit a greater disease severity than patients with blood group O or B.

#### **Key Points**

 Blood group O is associated with a decreased risk for contracting SARS-CoV-2 infection.

#### Blood Adv (2020) 4 (20): 4981-4989.

The association of ABO blood group with indices of disease severity and multiorgan dysfunction in COVID-19

Ryan L. Hoiland,<sup>1,2,\*</sup> Nicholas A. Fergusson,<sup>3,4,\*</sup> Anish R. Mitra,<sup>5</sup> Donald E. G. Griesdale,<sup>1,4-6</sup> Dana V. Devine,<sup>7-9</sup> Sophie Stukas,<sup>7</sup> Jennifer Cooper,<sup>7</sup> Sonny Thiara,<sup>5</sup> Denise Foster,<sup>5</sup> Luke Y. C. Chen,<sup>10</sup> Agnes Y. Y. Lee,<sup>10</sup> Edward M. Conway,<sup>9,10</sup> Cheryl L. Wellington,<sup>7,11-13,†</sup> and Mypinder S. Sekhon<sup>5,†</sup>

#### Blood Adv 2020 Oct 27;4(20):4990-4993.

#### Reduced prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 infection in ABO blood group O

Mike Bogetofte Barnkob,<sup>1,2</sup> Anton Pottegård,<sup>3</sup> Henrik Støvring,<sup>4</sup> Thure Mors Haunstrup,<sup>5</sup> Keld Homburg,<sup>6</sup> Rune Larsen,<sup>6</sup> Morten Bagge Hansen,<sup>7</sup> Kjell Titlestad,<sup>1</sup> Bitten Aagaard,<sup>5</sup> Bjarne Kuno Møller,<sup>8</sup> and Torben Barington<sup>1,2</sup>



This author explained this issue taking into account that SARS-COV 2 is encapsulated with the host cell membrane, where spike proteins are expressed with A or B glycan antigens, reflecting the ABO phenotype of the cells where viruses are produced.

So the SARS-COV 2 viruses produced in individuals of group A, B, AB or O express .... antigens and none in o individuals.





Vox Sanauinis (2020 © 2020 International Society of Blood Transfusion DOI: 10.1111/vox.13004

#### COMMENTARY

#### Blood group ABO polymorphism inhibits SARS-CoV-2 infection and affects COVID-19 progression

Fumiichiro Yamamoto,<sup>1</sup> (D) Miyako Yamamoto<sup>1</sup> & Eduardo Muñiz-Diaz<sup>2</sup> <sup>1</sup>Laboratory of Immunohematology and Glycobiology, Josep Carreras Leukaemia Research Institute, Badalona, Spain <sup>2</sup>Department of Immunohematology, Banc de Sang i Teixits – BST, Barcelona, Spain



individuals between with different blood antigens

ABO antibodies

interpersonal



will inhibit

infection

... The new studies that are coming will help us to better clarify this and many other aspects of the ABO involvement in the SARS-CoV-2 infection and the COVID-19 progression. ..

Fig. 1 Differential inhibition of infection between SARS-CoV-2 viruses exhibiting different ABO phenotypes and individuals of groups A, B, AB and O.

# Subgroups of A (A<sup>1</sup> and A<sup>2</sup>)

- Subgroups of A are phenotypes that differ from others of the same ABO group with respect to the amount of A antigen carried on RBCs
- Variant gene produces a weaker than normal red cell antigen
### Subgroups of A (A<sup>1</sup> and A<sup>2</sup>)

- Different levels of expression of A on RBCs are classified into *subgroups*
  - 80% of group A individuals are A1
  - Approximately 20% are A2
- Transferase produced by A2 gene differs from that produced by A1, less efficient in converting H chains to A



### Difference between A<sup>1</sup> and A<sup>2</sup>

- A<sup>1</sup> has more A and less H antigen on the cell.
- A<sup>2</sup> has less A and more H antigen
- Cannot be detected serologically
- A<sup>2</sup> can produce anti- A<sup>1</sup>
- In most cases, anti-A1 is of no clinical significance, reacting well below body temperature, and is merely a laboratory nuisance causing ABO discrepancies.
- Anti-A1 is considered clinically significant when it reacts at 37 °C.
- The presence of anti-A1 may cause discrepancies in forward and reverse grouping.

### Subgroups of A

 Subgroups of A weaker than A2 (Ael, Aint, A3, Ax, Am, etc) are seen only infrequently (less then 1%) and are characterized by decreasing numbers of A antigens

### Subgroups of B

- Less common than subgroups of A
- Criteria resembles that used for A subgroups

AB's have a wide variety, as they can inherit all the possibilities of the A group

	ving the Lanc	
NATURAL		IgM "COLD" (REACT AT 20-24°C)
IMMUNE		lgG "WARM" (REACT AT 37°C)

Whether they are IgG or IgM, ABO antibodies can activate complement readily !!! INCOMPATIBILITIES CAN CAUSE LIFE THREATENING TRANSFUSION REACTIONS!!!

#### **HYPERSENSITIVITY**

Transfusion reactions are an example of type II hypersensitivity in which red blood cells are rapidly destroyed by specific preformed antibodies (anti-ABO or -Rh) and complement

Type of hypersensitivity	Pathologic immune mechanisms	Mechanisms of tissue injury and disease
Immediate hypersensitivity (Type I)	T <sub>H</sub> 2 cells,IgE antibody, mast cells, eosinophils Mast cell IgE Allergen Mediators	Mast cell-derived mediators (vasoactive amines, lipid mediators, cytokines) Cytokine-mediated inflammation (eosinophils, neutrophils)
Antibody- mediated diseases (Type II)	IgM, IgG antibodies against cell surface or extracellular matrix antigens	Complement- and Fc receptor- mediated recruitment and activation of leukocytes (neutrophils, macrophages) Opsonization and phagocytosis of cells Abnormalities in cellular function, e.g., hormone receptor signaling
Immune complex– mediated diseases (Type III)	Immune complexes of circulating antigens and IgM or IgG antibodies deposited in vascular basement membrane Blood vessel wall Antigen-antibody complex	Complement and Fc receptor- mediated recruitment and activation of leukocytes
T cell– mediated diseases (Type IV)	1. CD4+ T cells (delayed-type hypersensitivity) 2. CD8+ CTLs (T cell-mediated cytolysis) Macrophage CD8+ T cell Cytokines Cytokines	<ol> <li>Macrophage activation, cytokine-mediated inflammation</li> <li>Direct target cell lysis, cytokine-mediated inflammation</li> </ol>

#### Types of hypersensitivity diseases.

In the four major types of hypersensitivity reactions, different immune effector mechanisms cause tissue injury and disease

#### HYPERSENSITIVITY

TYPE II HYPERSENSITIVITY (CYTOTOXIC) IS MEDIATED BY ANTIBODIES DIRECTED TOWARD ANTIGENS PRESENT ON THE SURFACE OF CELLS OR OTHER TISSUE COMPONENTS.

- ✓ Type II Hypersensitivity
- ✓ Type II <u>hypersensitivity</u> is an antibody-dependent process in which specific antibodies bind to antigens, resulting in tissue damage or destruction.
- ✓ If the antigen is present on cell surfaces, antibody binding can result in <u>cell lysis</u> through the in situ fixation of complement.
- ✓ <u>IgM antibodies</u> (multimeric) are often more effective in fixing complement than are than <u>IgG antibodies</u> (monomeric).
- ✓ Type II hypersensitivity is typified by a <u>transfusion reaction</u> in which mismatched red blood cells are rapidly destroyed by specific preformed antibodies (anti-ABO or -Rh) and complement.
- ✓ Although fixation of complement can result in direct cell lysis, <u>opsonization</u> and recruitment of <u>inflammatory cells</u> is often a more important cause of cell injury.

#### **Hemolytic Transfusion Reaction**



Immunologic incompatibility between donor and recipient cell types is the most common cause of clinically significant hemolytic transfusion reactions.

Acute reactions (i.e., those occurring within 24 hours after transfusion) develop in response to red cells transfused in patients with preexisting antibodies.

Incompatible A and B blood-group antigens interact with preexisting IgM antibodies and less commonly with hemolytic IgG antibodies, both of which fix and activate complement.

#### N Engl J Med 2019;381:150-62.



AABB, Technical Manual,

#### **Hemolytic Transfusion Reactions I - Intravascular Hemolysis**



Pathophysiological features of

ACUTE HEMOLYTIC TRANSFUSION REACTIONS.

Foreign blood-group antigen recognition and binding by **circulating IgM**  $\rightarrow$  activation of **TERMINAL COMPLEMENT**  $\rightarrow$  formation of the **membrane attack complex (MAC)**.

The MAC destroys red-cell membranes, releasing free hemoglobin (Hb) into the intravascular space  $\rightarrow$  end-organ damage (acute tubular necrosis and renal failure)

Early complement components  $\rightarrow$  endothelial damage, increased capillary permeability through activation of mast cells, polymorphonuclear cells, monocytes, and endothelial cells  $\rightarrow$  release of cytokines and interleukins, DIC (disseminated intravascular coagulation) and  $\uparrow$  TNF- $\alpha$  tumor necrosis factor  $\alpha$ .

N Engl J Med 2019;381:150-62.

#### Hemolytic Transfusion Reactions II- Extravascular Hemolysis



Pathophysiological features of

DELAYED HEMOLYTIC TRANSFUSION REACTIONS.

**Incomplete complement activation (IgG and C3b opsonization)** → **splenic and hepatic erythrophagocytosis**, resulting in **spherocytes and microspherocytes**.

Lysis of red cells  $\rightarrow$  unconjugated bilirubin, which is transported to the liver. Hepatic conjugated bilirubin is excreted as urobilinogen and stercobilinogen.

Anemia from red-cell destruction and jaundice from excess unconjugated and conjugated bilirubin are the primary clinical manifestations of delayed hemolytic transfusion reactions.

#### N Engl J Med 2019;381:150-62.



#### **Hemolytic Transfusion Reactions**

The earliest description of an incompatible hemolytic transfusion reaction dates to the experimental start of transfusion therapy in the mid-17th century.

Jean-Baptiste Denis described what has become the classic reaction:

The patient was transfused with 5-6 ounces of calves' blood. During the procedure, the patient complained that the vein in his right arm became quite painful. The procedure was repeated 2 days later; a larger transfusion was given. Following the transfusion, however, the patient complained of pain in the arm vein; his pulse rose, he vomited, and he had a severe nosebleed, pain over the kidney, and an "oppressive sensation in the chest." The next day, he "made a great glass of urine with a color as black as if it had been mixed with the soot of a chimney."





#### **Hemolytic Transfusion Reactions**



Annual Reported Deaths in the United States from Hemolytic Transfusion Reactions. The data, reported by the Food and Drug Administration for fiscal years 2005 through 2016, show an overall decline in deaths related to hemolytic transfusion reactions, with persistently low numbers of reported deaths in more recent years.

#### **Hemolytic Transfusion Reactions**

- If an ABO-incompatible transfusion occurs or is suspected, the transfusion should be stopped immediately, the venous line should be kept open with normal saline, and supportive care administered as needed.
- Close surveillance of the patient's vital signs for the first 30 minutes of transfusion should help identify most incompatible transfusions early.

Death occurs in 15% of cases of ABO incompatibility

and may result from as little as 30 mL of transfused ABO incompatible blood

Janatpour KA, Kalmin ND, Jensen HM, et al. Clinical outcomes of ABOincompatible RBC transfusions. Am J Clin Pathol 2008;129:276–81.

#### **BLOOD TRANSFUSION REQUEST**

Reparto         Cognome         Sesso       M □	UOC IMMUNOEMATCLOCALE MEDICINA TRASFUSIONALE Detuines hord carbonia Greeni Seatore Action 0x49976437-8 Fax 06.49976439 RICHIESTA DI EMOCOMPONENTI M(AD)-RDE Codice	REV. 4 del 19/07/2011 Tel
Reazioni trasfusionali SI	NO	ultima//
Richiesta di TERAPIA Richiesta di N°Unit Eritrociti:	Perdite ematiche previste ml SI NO E Emodiluizione SI NO Recupero post N"Unità di Eritro N"Unità di Plasm N"Unità di Conco I Indicazione trasfusionale	SI NO D operatorio SI NO D citi concentrati na fresco congelato
Contraction of the second s	Pits mmc	Peso corporeo(Kg)            PT            PTT.            RATIO            Data
	TIPO DI RICHIESTA	
A disposizione per il Invio campione/i di sangue del s corrispondenza paziente-preliev	suddetto paziente dopo aver verificat	isenza prove di compatibilità) o la corretta etichettatura e la
	RUTTURA TRASFUSIONALE Rid	chiesta pervenuta alle ore

### The request for blood products should be in writing form, including:

- Patient identification (full name, age or birth date).
- Diagnosis and indication for transfusion.
- Requested product(s) and number of units.
- Date and time of request and desired delivery.
- Name, signature of the prescribing physician.

#### The following information must be mentioned:

- ABO blood group and RhD.
- Did the patient receive transfusion earlier?
- If YES when was the last?
- Has the patient been pregnant?
- Are previous transfusion reactions known?
- Have red cell antibodies ever been detected?

### **BLOOD TRANSFUSION REQUEST**

Reazioni trasfusionali SI	RICHIESTA I N Peso (Kg)	Tipo	EV. 4 del 19 / 07 / 2011 Tel Nato il/ tima/  tima/
Ha avuto figli con malattia en	MOTIN	VO DELLA RICHIESTA	
	Tipo		
INTERVENTO Elezione Urgenza	Data	atiche previste ml	g/dl
Predeposito		Emodiluizione	
Recupero intraoperatorio		Recupero postop	eratorio SI 🗆 NO 🗖
Richiesta di	N°	Unità di 🛛 Eritrocit	
	N°	Unità di 🛛 Plasma 🕯	fresco congelato
		Unità di 🛛 Concen	
CT TERADIA		rasfusionale	
			Richiesta di ml:
Richiesta di N° Uni	Piastrine:		Plasma fresco:
Eritrociti:	Li Flastrine:	□ singolo buffy coat	
□ concentrati □ lavati		pool buffy coat	Peso corporeo(Kg)
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To ensure patient safety, the transfusion laboratory requires the patient to have been tested on more than one occasion prior to deliver red blood cells.

The two separate samples for Group <u>must</u> <u>have been taken at TWO</u> <u>different times</u>

### **Blood donation**

Which blood types are your red blood cells compatible with?

O individuals are universal donors, but they can receive blood only from O individuals, while AB can receive from each ABO group, universal recipients



### **Blood donation**

#### **Compatibility Table**

	Donor ABO Group				
Recipient ABO Group	RBCs	Plasma	Platelets		
UNKNOWN	0	AB	AB		
ο	ο	O, A, B, AB	O, A, B, AB		
А	Α, Ο	A, AB	A, AB		
В	В, О	B, AB	B, AB		
АВ	AB, A, B, O	AB	AB		

Considering the absence of antibodies AB individuals are universal plasma donor

Plateletsincompatiblestransfusioncouldplateletrefractoriness:plateletstransfusedaredestroyed, so the transfusionis less efficient

#### ·Seldom cause HDN , usually mild





jaunuice:

# Lab. clinical practice: Agglutination of erytrocytes



### AB0 typing



The blood grouping and Rh(D) typing procedure is based on the principle of agglutination.

Normal red blood cells, possessing antigens, will agglutinate in the presence of antibodies directed toward those antigens. Commercial antisera are used to test patient and donor cells





A positive

## ABO direct grouping

(we know the antibodies)

	Anti –A	Anti-B
GROUP A	pos	neg
GROUP B	neg	pos
GROUP AB	pos	pos
GROUP 0	neg	neg





#### ABO reverse grouping (we know the antigens)



A cells

s B cells

0 cells

GROUP A	neg	pos	neg
GROUP B	pos	neg	neg
GROUP AB	neg	neg	neg
GROUP 0	pos	pos	neg



### **PCR-SSP**



### ABO typing



#### 0A genotype, A phenotype

#### **RBC-Ready Gene** ABO

Protocol for Documentation

2014-09

S9AP102

Reaction No.	1	2	3	4	5	6*	7	8		
PCR Product (Size in bp)	134	133	194	193	195	194	170	170		
Specificity	0'	non O <sup>1</sup>	0²	non O <sup>2</sup>	В	non B	A <sup>2</sup>	non A <sup>2</sup>		
Examples for res	ults:								*Genotype	*Phenotype
Contraction of	+			+		+		+	0'0'	0
Position	+	+	+	+		+		+	0 <sup>1</sup> 0 <sup>2</sup>	0
1-positive	+	1.1+	-	+	+	+	-	+	O'B	В
(0')	+	+	-	+		+		+	O'A	A
	+	+		+		+	+	+	O <sup>1</sup> A <sup>2</sup>	A <sub>2</sub>
		-	+			+		+	0 <sup>2</sup> 0 <sup>2</sup>	0
Position		4	+		+	+		+	**0 <sup>2</sup> B	В
3-positive		104	+	+		+		+	O <sup>2</sup> A	A
(0 <sup>2</sup> )	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	O <sup>2</sup> A <sup>2</sup>	A <sub>2</sub>
Position					+				**BB	В
5-positive (B)		100		+	+	+		+	AB	AB
		+		+	+	+	+	+	A <sup>2</sup> B	A <sub>2</sub> B
Position 2/4/6-		+		+		+		+	AA	A
positive		+		+		+	+	+ 0	AA <sup>2</sup>	A
(non O <sup>1</sup> /O <sup>2</sup> /B)		+		+		+	+		A <sup>2</sup> A <sup>2</sup>	A <sub>2</sub>
Results:						_				(ACC) Includes
							1		hez	201201
The specificity in t										

in the product insert. \*\* An exception to the general reaction pattern is represented by the non o<sup>2</sup> reaction, in case of a o<sup>2</sup>o<sup>2</sup>, BB or BO<sup>2</sup>

\*\* An exception to the general reaction pattern is represented by the non or reaction, in case of a 0 0, bb or bo genotype the primer mix (No. 4) reacts negatively.

In rare cases the primers tend to show an unspecific band that it significantly larger than the internal control.

The positive sign (-) marks the appearance and the negative sign (-) marks the absence of a DNA fragment. You can enter the band pattern of the current samples in the last lanes. The size of the internal control in all reaction mixes is 4.34 bp. In the case of heterozygote samples all four "non" reactions (2,4,6,8) and two of the blood group specific reactions (5,5,7) must be positive. If you only find one DNA fragment in specific reactions (1,3,5,7) connected with positive amplifications in all four "non" reactions (2,4,6,8) the sample is heterozygote with A.

CONTRACTOR OF MELCING	
Result:	
	1.2.2.9
	QMS 09.12
	Result:

### The Rh System

- The most important blood group system after AB0 in transfusion medicine
- 1937 Levine and Landsteiner
- A very important protein of blood groups
  - Highly immunogenic (90% possibility to became immunized)
  - Trasfusions
  - Pregnancies
  - Variability in populations
  - RhD+ 85% of caucasians, 94% Africans, 98% Asiatics
  - High genetic polymorphism

#### **Discovered in 1937 by Levine and Landsteiner**

- In 1939 by Levine and Stetson found an antibody directed at the D antigen in the serum of a woman whose fetus had fatal hemolytic disease of the newborn.
- The Rh system was identified by the work of Landsteiner and Wiener who found that human RBCs were agglutinated by an antibody, apparently common to all rhesus monkeys and 85% of humans. This factor was named the Rh factor.
- Landsteiner and Wiener immunized guinea pigs and rabbits with the RBCs of Rhesus monkeys, the antibody produced by these animals agglutinated 85% of human RBCs. Later the antigens detected by the rhesus antibody and by the human antibody were established as dissimilar, but the system had already been named.
- This contribution to medical science was the most significant event in blood group systems research since the discovery of the ABO system 40 years earlier.











### The Rh/D factor

The **Rh/D factor is** not the single entity as originally thought but **a complex system of antigens**.

- There are actually two genes, **RHD** and **RHCE**, accounting for five main antigens: **D**, **C**, **c**, **E**, **e**.
- The D antigen is the strongest of the Rh system and most potent antigenically and therefore the most important in haemolytic disease and in transfusion reactions.
- Rh positive is D positive !

### The Rh/D factor



Two genes (RHD, RHCE) in close proximity on CHROMOSOME 1 encode the erythrocyte Rh proteins, RhD and RhCE; one carries the D antigen, and the other carries CE antigens in various combinations (ce, Ce, cE, or CE).

✓ The genes each have ten exons, are 97% identical.

 Individuals who lack RhD protein, "Rh or D negative", most often have a complete deletion of the RHD gene



#### **Rh+ Phenotypes**

CcDee	CCDee
CcDEe	CCDEe
CcDEE	CCDEE
ccDee	ccDEe
CCDEE	

#### **Rh- Phenotypes**

Ccdee Ccdee Ccdee Ccdee ccdEE CcdEe



Figure 1 Model of Rhesus proteins in the red blood cell membrane





In the Rh system there are no natural antibodies: it is necessary to have an immunization (through pregnancy or transfusion) to produce the specific antibody.





### **Blood donation**



Now you are able to observe again this picture taking into account the RhD system

Remember that anti-D antibodies are not natural and it is have necessary to immunizing events such as pregnancies previous blood or transfusions

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This figure shows pathophysiology of HDN

Retrieved from: http://tmedweb.tulane.edu/pharmwiki/lib/exe/fetch.php/rhod.png

# Manifestations of the Hemolytic Disease of the Fetus & Newborn (HDFN)



#### To prevent Active Immunization

- Rh anti-D immunoglobulin (IgG) is administered intramuscularly to the mother following childbirth.
- Other conditions:






 Within 72 hours or preferably earlier following delivery or abortion

- If >72 hours, may be given up to 14-28 days after delivery
- Baby born is Rh-positive & direct Coombs' test is negative
- When Rh factor of the fetus cannot be determined

During pregnancy, if woman is Rh negative & has no antibody, she hould have one dose of 300µg Rh IgG at 28 weeks & again after birth (within 72 hours) Dose

- Anti D-gammaglobulin 300 µg intramuscularly following delivery
- 50 μg of Rh-immune globulin IM within 72 hours (induced/spontaneous abortion, ectopic, molar pregnancy or CVS in 1<sup>st</sup> trimester)
- Women with pregnancy >12 weeks should have full dose 300 μg.

Generally 300µg dose will protect a woman from fetal haemorrhage of upto 30mL of fetal whole blood.



Calculation of dose

- By estimate volume of fetal blood entering into maternal circulation by "Kleihauer-Betke test"
- If 80 fetal erythrocytes in 50 low power fields in maternal peripheral blood films = transplacental hemorrhage to 4mL of fetal blood.
- More accurate test : immunofluorescence & flow cytometry.
- If fetomaternal hemorrhage > 30 mL whole blood, dose is 10µg for every 1mL of fetal whole blood.



# D weak

First described by Stratton on 1946 as Du,

Weak D expression results from single point mutations in RHD that encode amino acid changes predicted to be intracellular or in the transmembrane regions of RhD with reduced number of D antigen sites on the RBCs.

Over 99 different mutations, the most common being a Val270Gly designated Type 1, cause weak D expression . Mutations are catalogued on the Rhesus Base and blood group mutation websites and are updated regularly.

Occurs in an estimated 0.2%-1% of Caucasians.



## D weak

Mutations are catalogued on the RhesusBase and blood group mutation websites and are updated regularly



# Some Weak D Types

- Type 1
- Type 2
- Type 3

Account for 90% of Weak D;
 Do not produce Anti-D

- Type 4.2
- Type 5
- Type 11
- Type 15
- Type 19
- Type 20

Known to form Anti-D when exposed to D+ RBCs

### Weak D



RBC with normal amounts of D antigen Weak D (Du)

# D partial

RBCs with **partial D antigen type as D-positive**, but individuals often produce anti-D when stimulated by transfusion or pregnancy.

Some partial D, similar to weak D, result from point mutations in RHD that cause single amino acid changes. **These changes** are located on the **EXTRACELLULAR REGIONS** and **ALTER OR CREATE NEW EPITOPES.** 

Many partial D result from hybrid genes that have regions of RHD replaced by the corresponding regions of RHCE. These replacements can involve short regions encompassing several codons, entire exons, or large regions of the gene, and the novel sequence of amino acids that result from RhD joined with RhCE can generate new Rh antigens

Partial D

>

Defines as D phenotype which is qualitatively different from Normal D.
Missing one or more parts of the D antigen
Since the antisera is specific for the *whole* D

antigen, a weak reaction may result if patient has a partial antigen. Missing portion RBC RBC

# D partial

# Partial D

- Defines as D phenotype which is qualitatively different from Normal D.
- Missing one or more parts of the D antigen
- Since the antisera is specific for the whole D antigen, a weak reaction may result if patient has a partial antigen.



### **D VARIANT**





## Weak D typing



#### Weak D type 1

#### **BAG** HEALTH CARE

#### **BAGene**

 CE
 LOT
 1102 WD

 ⅣD
 2012-08

 □1
 REF
 6647

#### Weak D-TYPE

REF 6647

Worksheet und Auswertetabelle / Worksheet and Evaluation diagram

Reaktions-Nr. / Reaction No.	1 3	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
PCR-Produkt (Größe in bp) PCR product (size in bp)	150	126	165	101	130 83	112	198 83	153
ren product (size in op)	-10	weak	D Allele	/ weak D	alleles	SO		
weak D type 1	+	-	-	- 8	-	01		-
weak D type 2	19 - 1	+	-	_ 01	-	-	-	-
> weak D type 3	-	-	+	-	-		-	-
weak D type 4.0, 4.1	-			+		-	-	-
weak D type 4.2, DAR	-	-	-	+	130		-	-
weak D type 5	-	-	-	- 31	-	+	10-50	-
weak D type 11 (haplotype cDe)		-	-	- 35	_	a <u>r</u> t	198	-
RHD(M295I) (haplotype CD <sub>el</sub> e)	-					-	198	-
> weak D type 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
weak D type 17	-	-	-	-	83	-	83	-
weak D type 4.2, 17	-	-	-	+	130 83	-	83	-
Weak D type 11 / RHD(M295I), 17	102.00	-	-	-	83	-	198 83	me -
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#### Rh negative ccdee

RBC-Ready Gene CDE										CE				L	TO		P032	
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PCR-Product	124		49	139	152 303	130	122	186	147	298	145	157	155	100	165	139	133	Туріс
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# Coombs Test and Pretransfusion Testing

# What is Coombs' Serum

 Serum from a rabbit or other animal previously immunized with purified human globulin to prepare antibodies directed against IgG and complement, used in the direct and indirect Coombs' tests. Also called antihuman globulin.



#### ANTIBODIES

а



b



## COOMBS TEST



Detection of irregular anti-erythrocyte antibodies using the indirect antiglobulin test

ANTI -

D C E c e K Fy<sup>a</sup> Fy<sup>b</sup> Jk<sup>a</sup> Jk<sup>b</sup> S s

## **Cross Matching**



## **Cross Matching**



## **Cross Matching**

Donor red blood cells are mixed with patient plasma/serum



– To detect:

1. Most recipient antibodies directed against antigens on the donor red blood cells.

2. Major errors in ABO grouping, labeling, and identification of donors and recipient

### A.E.Schmidt, N.Blumberg 2016

« BLOOD TRANSFUSION is the SECOND

most used MEDICAL PROCEDURES

in health care systems worldwide »





The primary responsibility of a blood transfusion service is to provide a safe, sufficient and timely supply of blood and blood products.

In fulling this responsibility, the BTS should ensure that the act of blood donation is safe and causes no harm to the donor.

It should build and maintain a pool of safe, voluntary non-remunerated blood donors and take all necessary steps to ensure that the products derived from donated blood are safe for the recipient, with a minimal risk of any infection that could be transmitted through transfusion.



All prospective blood donors should therefore be assessed for their suitability to donate blood, on each occasion of donation.

The purpose of blood donor selection is to:

- Protect donor health and safety by collecting blood only from healthy individuals
- Ensure patient safety by collecting blood only from donors whose donations, when transfused, will be safe for the recipients
- Identify any factors that might make an individual unsuitable as a donor, either temporarily or permanently
- Reduce the unnecessary deferral of safe and healthy donors
- Ensure the quality of blood products derived from whole blood and apheresis donations
- Minimize the wastage of resources resulting from the collection of unsuitable donations.





- 1 Donor registration
- 2 Pre-donation information
- 3 Completion of donor questionnaire
- 4 Donor interview and pre-donation counselling
- 5 Donor health and risk assessment
- 6 Informed consent.

## Physical examination...



Age Weight Systolic Blood pressure diastolic blood pressure Pulse Rate Hb (females) (males)

**18–65 years** ≥ 50 Kg ≤ 180 mmHg ≤ 100 mmHg 50 -100 b/min ≥ 12,5 g/dL ≥ 13,5 g/dL

# Physical examination...

With the aim to careful evaluate cardiovascular, respiratory and abdominal organs as well as the superficial lymphatic system



### **Donor questionnaire**

A donor questionnaire is the key tool in donor selection for assessing donor health and safety and for reducing the risk of transmission of infection, in particular for infections for which no suitable screening tests are available.

It is important to investigate any conditions of: habitual use of alcohol, use of drugs, use of steroids or hormones for the purpose of physical bodybuilding

#### Infectious Disease Markers in Blood Donors

- Blood count
- HBsAg
- HIV antigen and Anti-HIV 1,2
- Anti-HCV
- HBV, HCV, HIV
- Anti-Treponema Pallidum



### Lab test to be performed in Blood Donors

- Glycemia
- Creatinine
- ALT
- Cholesterolemia and HDL triglycerides
- Total proteinuria
- ferritin







## **Collection of Blood**

- Materials used are sterile and single use.
- Most important step is preparing the site to a state of almost surgical cleanliness.
- Bacteria on skin, if present, may grow well in stored donor blood and cause a fatal sepsis in recipient
- Use 16-17 gauge needle to collect blood from a single venipuncture within 15 minutes
- Collect 450 +/- 45 mLs of blood





The whole blood is a mixture of cells, colloids and crystalloids; it can be separated into different blood components:

- packed red blood cell (PRBC) concentrate
- platelet concentrate
- fresh frozen plasma and cryoprecipitate.

Each blood component is used for a different indication; thus the component separation has maximized the utility of one whole blood unit.

Apheresis is a procedure where required single or more than one component is collected, and the rest of blood components are returned back to the donor.

The working principle of apheresis equipment is either by **centrifugation** (different specific gravity) or by **filtration** (different size).

The most commonly used equipments use the centrifugation principle and also give leucodepleted products. In this method, fixed quantity of blood is collected in a bolus called as Extracorporeal volume (ECV) and the required component (e.g. Platelets) is separated and collected in the collection bag and the other components (e.g. red blood cells, leucocytes and plasma) are returned back to the donor.





The various components that can be collected are - double unit red cell collection (red cells), platelets, leucapheresis (harvesting granulocytes, peripheral blood haematopoietic stem cell), plasmapheresis (collecting normal plasma) and therapeutic plasma exchange (for exchanging with normal plasma after collecting and discarding patient's plasma).



## Permanent Deferrals

- HIV, HBV, or HCV positive
- Protozoan diseases such as Chagas disease or Babesiosis
- Received human pituitary growth hormone
- Lived in a country where Creutzfeld-Jacob disease is prevalent
- Most cancers except minor skin cancer and carcinoma insitu of the cervix
- Severe heart disease, liver disease

## **Temporary Deferrals**

- Certain immunizations
  - 2 weeks -MMR, yellow fever, oral polio, typhoid
  - 4 weeks -Rubella, Chicken Pox
  - 2 months small pox
- Pregnancy
- Certain drugs and medications











### Storage



#### Storage



• RBCs

4°C (+/-2°C) (42 days in SAG-M)



#### • PLTs

20-24°C for 5 days, need to be stored with gentle agitation °C

• Fresh Frozen Plasma:

24 months T< -25°C 3 months - T between -18 °C e -25°C





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