

# Case Studies

By John Soltys



# About me



# Agenda

## Moms

“Blood like Gatorade”

HELLP!

TTTS

Return of the D

## Think Fast

Dodeca-octaplex

Sickle Surprise

Platelet Possibilities

## Exotic Cases

Anti-cE

IgA eh?

## Food for Thought

Surprise Phone Call

O? NO!



# Moms

“Blood like Gatorade”

HELLP!

TTTS

Return of the D



# “Blood Like Gatorade”



# The Situation

- Weekday night shift (surprise!)
- Stat blood work ordered on a newborn
- Very difficult draw
- Nurse calls lab tells you only 1.5mL of blood is available the following tests are ordered: DAT, Type and Screen, CBC, Retics, INR, PTT, Lactate.




## What Was Run:

### *Baby*

Test	Result
Coag	Not drawn (NSQ)
Lactate	22 mmol/L
CBC	Hgb 46!!!
Retics	Send away test
Blood type	O Pos
Cord Gasses	pH <6.8, CO2 63mmHg

### *Mom*

Test	Result
Kleihauer	27% fetal cells
Blood Type	O Pos



## Massive Placental Hemorrhage

- Estimated 83% of pregnancies result in some FMH<sup>1</sup>
- Causes of FMH include: Trauma, Placental abnormalities, Spontaneous
- Extent of FMH greater in ABO/Rh compatible baby/moms
- Definition of “massive FMH” is unclear
- Pre delivery FMH difficult to diagnose
- Typical lab results of a baby post delivery:

Test	Result
Hemoglobin	Low
Retics/NRBCs	Elevated
Cord Gasses	Acidic





## How Our Lab Responded

- Middle of the night CBS Brampton 2+hrs away no special blood in stock
- Emergency issued fresh O-Neg blood
- Did follow up cross match using mom's sample
- Shipped baby and mom off to LHSC



HELLP!



# The Situation

- Evening shift
- Coag 1 on mom hemolyzed
- Coag 2 also hemolyzed
- Coag 3 hemolyzed too!
- Phlebotomist says they had no trouble drawing the blood
- Tech immediately calls the doctor...



# Lab Results

Test	Result
MCHC	370 g/L
RDW	22%
Platelets	24 x 10 <sup>9</sup> /L
D Dimer	4000 ug/L
Liver Enzymes	All Elevated
Uric Acid	Elevated



HELLP  
(Atypical pre-eclampsia)

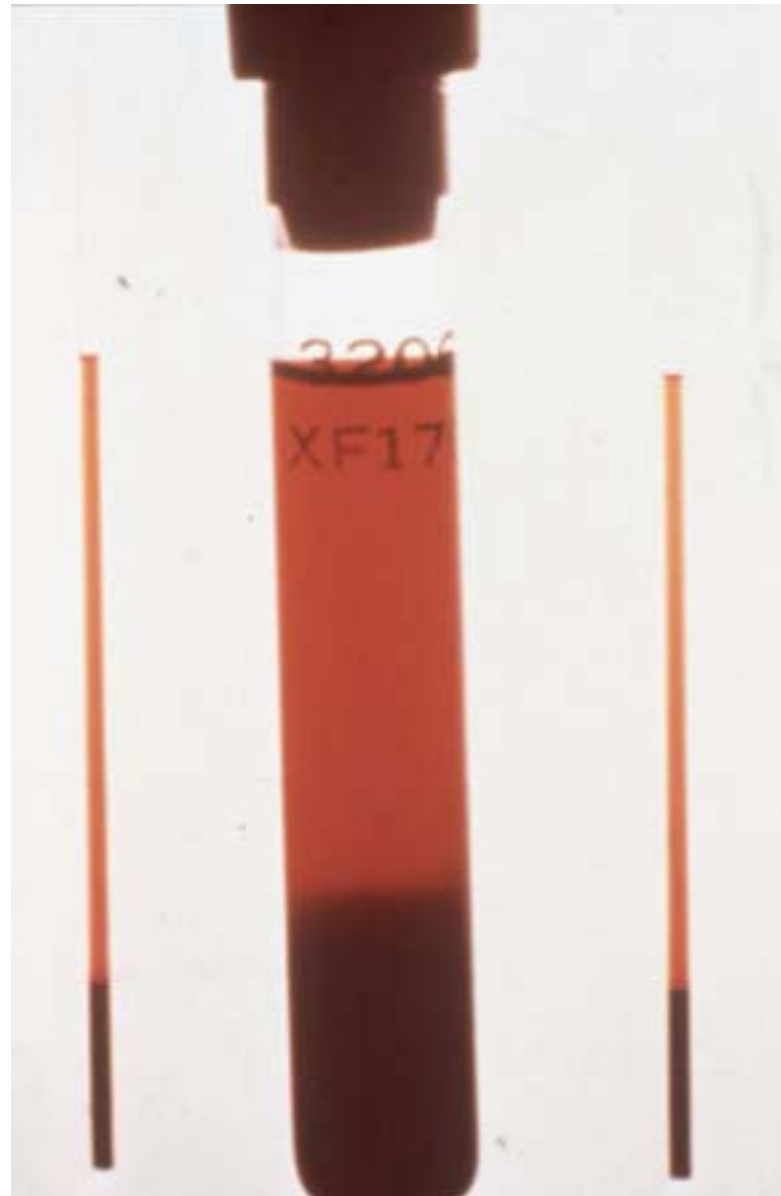
**Hemolysis**

**Elevated**

**Liver Enzymes**

**Low**

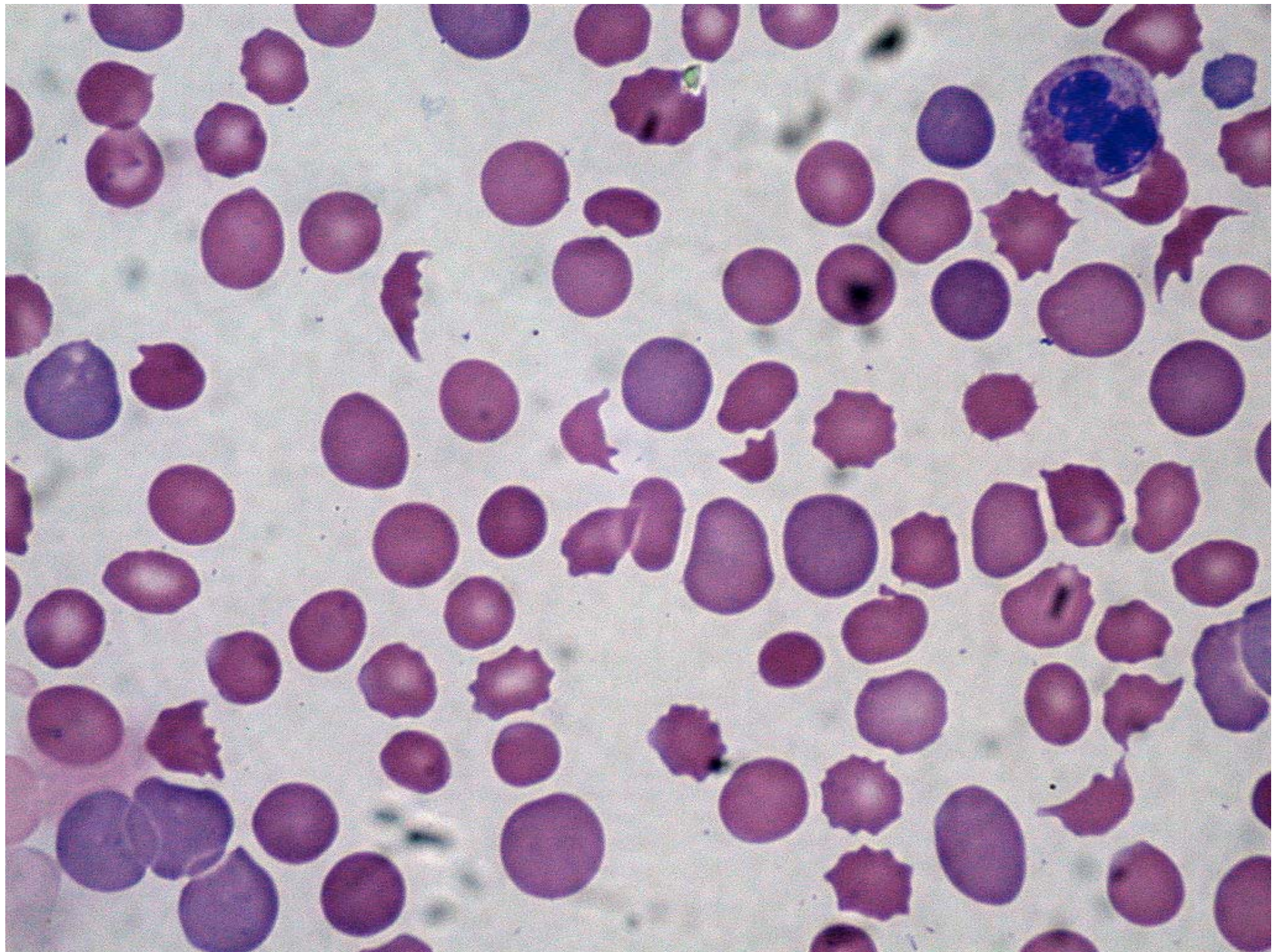
**Platlets**



# HELLP

- Cause uncertain (speculation)
- Can lead to DIC and Renal failure
- Hemolysis
  - Chemistry
    - Increased Lactate, LDH, Bilirubin, Potassium, Uric Acid
  - CBC
    - Low Hgb, Low Platelets, High RDW
    - Schistocytes (fragments), Spherocytes, achinocytes (burrs)





# Lab's Response

- Supportive Therapy for a patient suffering from MAHA due to DIC
- Maintain platelets and coagulation factors using platelets and FP
- Monitor using PT, PTT and Fibrinogen test
- Bring in Cryo from CBS STAT
- Symptoms typically dissipate after delivery of baby if natural birth not imminent an emergency C section indicated





TTTS



# Case

- One twin born with hemoglobin well over 200 other was dramatically anemic



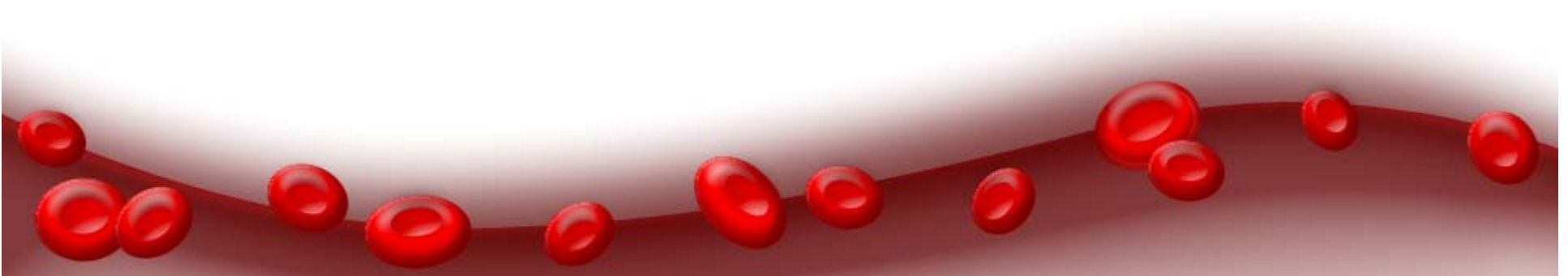
# Twin Twin Transfusion Syndrome

- Complication of Monochorionic twin pregnancies
- Characterized by unbalanced chronic blood transfer from one twin to the other
- Survival rate for both twins is from 76-88% depending on intervention chosen
- Prognosis can be poor, one survey showed 100% mortality rate for untreated diagnosed twins before 28 weeks



# Diagnosis

- Ultrasound
- Amniotic fluid discordance
- Weekly follow ups



# Treatment

- Treatment of choice “Fetoscopic laser coagulation”
- “Amniodrainage”
- Cord Occlusion



# “Return of the D”



# Situation

- Rh Neg mom comes in for pre-natal blood work, everything is normal (screen is negative)
- Receives dose of RhIG
- Weeks later she returns to hospital, antibody screen shows 4+ in all screen in panel cells with D



# What's Going On?

- Mom must have been sensitized to D at some other point in life (aborted pregnancy? Transfusion?), the screen was below titre at the time of prenatal blood work but must have been triggered as the baby developed





# Treatment

- Perform titres on mom
- Repeated in utero transfusion
- Exchange transfuse the baby at birth



# Think Fast!

Dodeca-octaplex

Sickle Surprise

Platelet Possibilities



# Dodeca-octaplex



# The Situation

- Weekend Evening Shift
- Doc calls:
  - Wants 12 doses of Octaplex for Rivaroxaban reversal Patient needs surgery immediately.
  - Knows its not indicated but read a paper somewhere that shows evidence of this working
  - Wants to know your thoughts...



# The Response

- Call Everyone!
- Call for back up
- Go to the package insert

“ Maximum total dose should not exceed 120 mL (3000 IU).”

- $\$720 * 6 = \$4,320$



# More Research...

## Vascular Medicine

### **Reversal of Rivaroxaban and Dabigatran by Prothrombin Complex Concentrate**

**A Randomized, Placebo-Controlled, Crossover Study in Healthy Subjects**

Elise S. Eerenberg, MD; Pieter W. Kamphuisen, MD; Meertien K. Sijpkens, BSc;  
Joost C. Meijers, PhD; Harry R. Buller, MD; Marcel Levi, MD



# Sickle Surprise!



# The Situation

- Night Shift
- Patient in 30's with Hgb of 58 shows up in Emerg
- Known history of Sickle cell anemia BUT you have no access to any history





# The Response

- Type and Screen (A Pos, no antibodies)
- IS XM and Tx 2 units
- What's Missing?



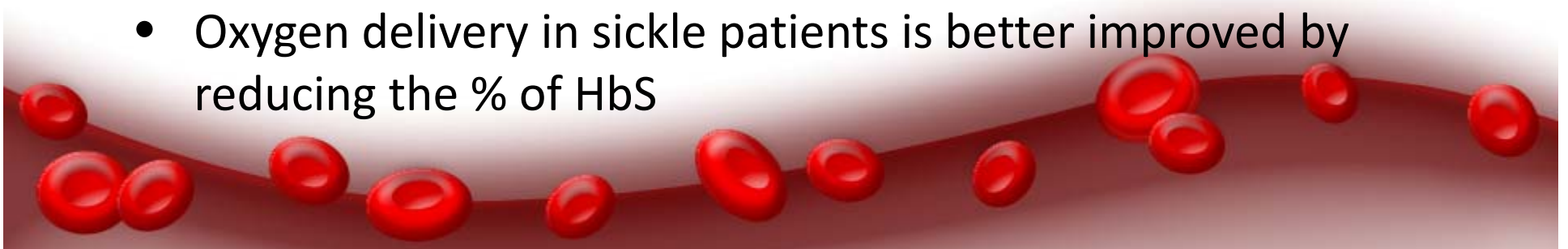
# Sickle Cell Patients

## Special Transfusion Requirements

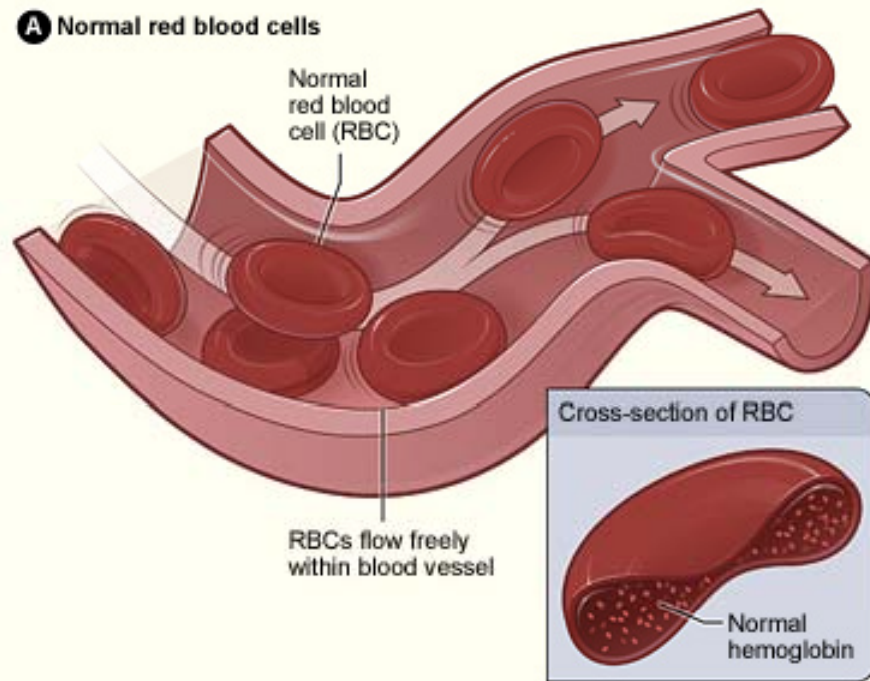
- Phenotype specific units
- Full cross match (last transfusion unknown)
- Use leukocyte reduced units
- Sickledex negative units if possible

## Different Goals for Transfusion

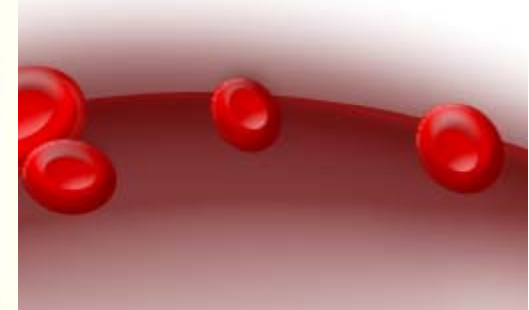
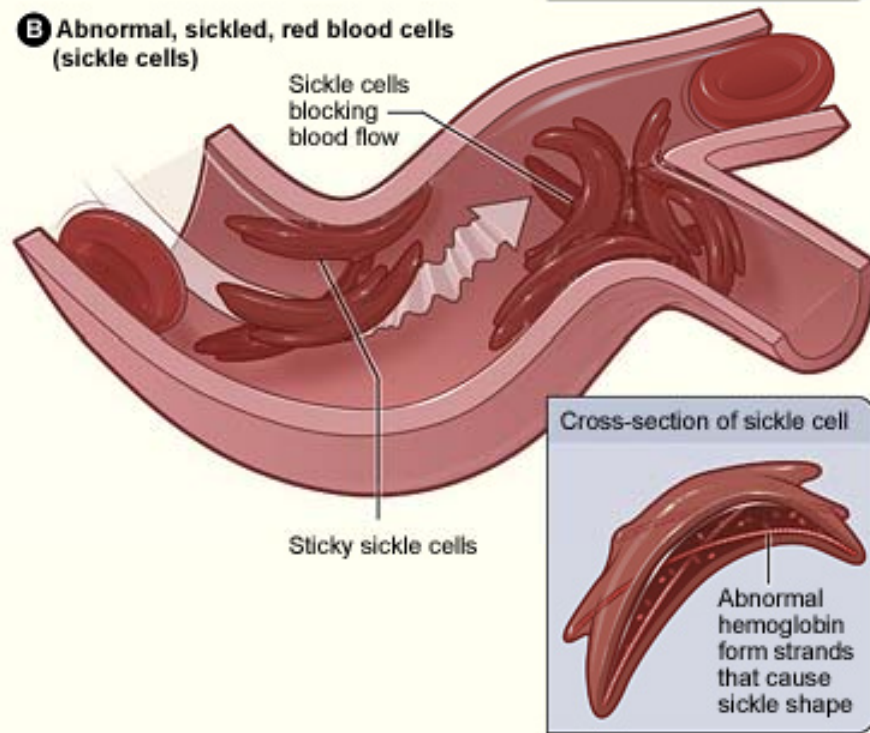
- Hgb >50g/L
- Never transfuse beyond 100-110 g/L of Hgb
- Oxygen delivery in sickle patients is better improved by reducing the % of HbS



**A** Normal red blood cells



**B** Abnormal, sickled, red blood cells (sickle cells)



# bloody easy 3

## Blood Transfusions, Blood Alternatives and Transfusion Reactions

A Guide to Transfusion Medicine

**Third Edition**

JL Callum, Y Lin, PH Pinkerton  
Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre

K Karkouti, JM Pendergrast  
University Health Network

N Robitaille  
CHU Sainte-Justine

AT Timmouth  
The Ottawa Hospital

KE Webert  
McMaster University Medical Centre

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# Platelet Possibilities



# Platelets indicated or not?

Patient going in for emergency surgery platelet count is  $330 \times 10^9/L$

- Do they have a platelet disorder?
- Are they on Aspirin or other platelet inhibiting drugs?



# Irradiated Platelets indicated or not?

Chemo Patient platelet count of  $10 \times 10^9/L$

- Congenital immunodeficiency
- Lymphoproliferative diseases
- Undergoing bone marrow or stem cell transplants
- Patients treated with purine analogues, purine antagonists, alemtuzumab and anti-thymocyte globin



- Notify patient in need of irradiated blood and provide a card for the patient to carry in their wallet.

Special Needs Card	
Blood Bank	Date: June 11, 2011
Name: Mary Bloodworthy	
Date of Birth: Oct 25, 1981 Hospital File # 1175380	
ABO/Rh: O NEG	
Special Requirements:	
REQUIRES IRRADIATED PRODUCTS	





# The Situation

Platelets Indicated or not?

- Patient in DIC platelet count of  $10 \times 10^9/L$ 
  - What is the cause?
  - What are the surrounding circumstances?
  - In general, if the patient is not actively bleeding or at high risk of bleeding then prophylactic platelet transfusion is not indicated



# Exotic Cases

Ce  
IgA eh?



Ce



# The Situation

- Patients' antibody panels:

---

Rh haplotype

??????????????

CDe and Cde

+

cDE and cdE

Negative

cDe and cde

Negative

CDE and CdE

Negative

---



# Anti-Ce

- Individuals with Rh haplotypes R1 (CDe) or r' (Cde) express the Ce antigen (along with C and e)
- Anti-Ce can cross placenta and cause HDN (Very Rare)
- Produced by R2R2 (cDE/cDE) individuals



IgA eh?



# The Situation

- Call from a neighboring hospital
- They would like to know if we have results for anti-IgA antibody titre on a patient they need to transfuse



# Anti-IgA

- Is linked to severe anaphylactic transfusion reactions
- Patients with a low titre of IgA can develop anti-IgA
- Not all patients with anti-IgA have tx rx, testing usually only indicated if individual has history of an anaphylactic tx rx





# Washed Cells

## RBCs

- give RBCs from unselected donors after washing with 0.9 % NaCl
- if reaction recurs, give frozen-thawed-deglycerolized RBCs
- alternatives (where available/appropriate)
  - autologous RBCs or RBCs from IgA deficient donors

## Platelets

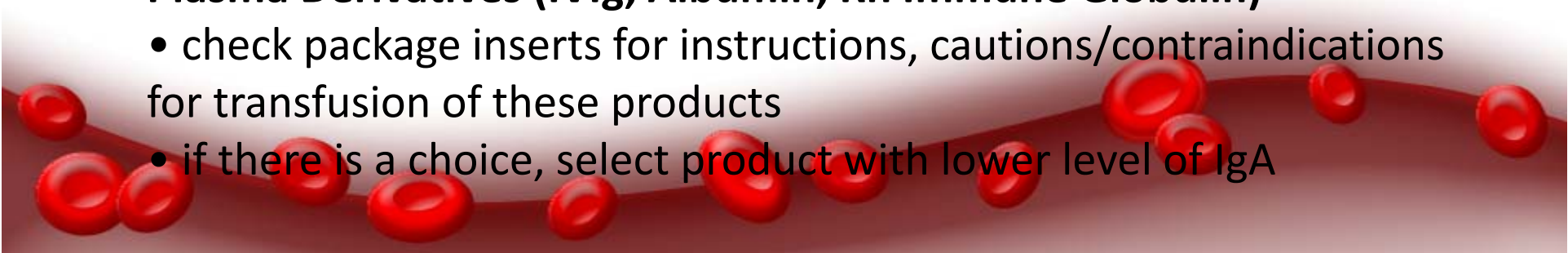
- use platelets, apheresis collected from IgA deficient donors
- alternatively, give platelets from unselected donors after washing with 0.9% NaCl

## Fresh Frozen Plasma, Frozen Plasma and Cryoprecipitate

- use components collected from IgA-deficient donors

## Plasma Derivatives (IVIg, Albumin, Rh Immune Globulin)

- check package inserts for instructions, cautions/contraindications for transfusion of these products
- if there is a choice, select product with lower level of IgA



# Should Washed Cells be given as a Precaution?

- Shelf life of washed blood products much lower than unwashed
- IgA deficient blood products are rare
- Risks involved in cell washing
- Patients with low IgA and even with anti-IgA may not necessarily have a reaction



# Food for Thought

Surprise Phone call

O? No!



# Surprise Phone Call



# The Situation

- Answer the phone during a day shift
- Patient has some questions:
  - Received a letter telling him he has an antibody, he has only ever been transfused at your hospital questions include:
    - What does this mean?
    - Is this bad for my health?
    - Did someone make a mistake?
    - What can I do about this?





# Reasons Not To...

“We’re not supposed to”

- “1. Communicating to the individual or his or her personal representative a diagnosis identifying a disease or disorder as the cause of symptoms of the individual in circumstances in which it is reasonably foreseeable that the individual or his or her personal representative will rely on the diagnosis.”



O? NO!





# The Situation

- Receive a blood order requesting a 2 unit XM with a special note “Patient requests no O-Type blood”
- Patient is A Pos
- Patient has a hemoglobin of 69
- You have two O Neg units that will expire today (everything else is fresh)



# The Situation

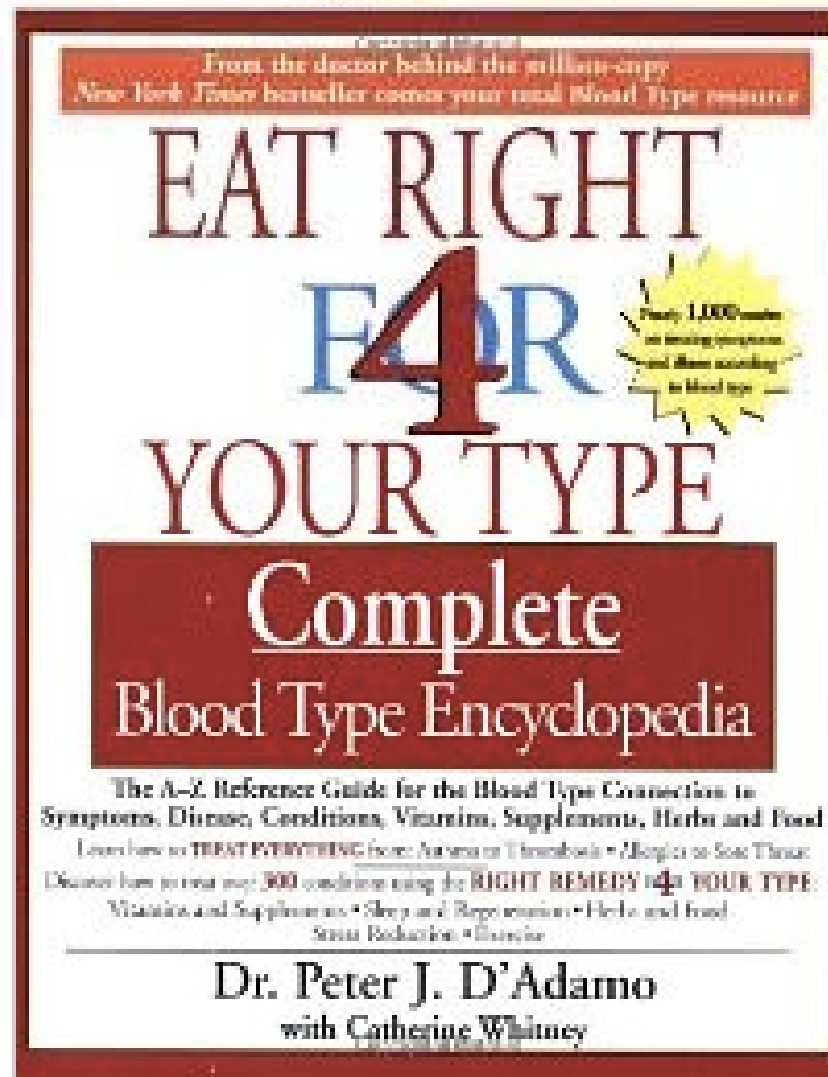
- What if the patient was B Neg and you had no B units in stock?



Q

- What if I want the
- What if I transfus

Click to **LOOK INSIDE!**

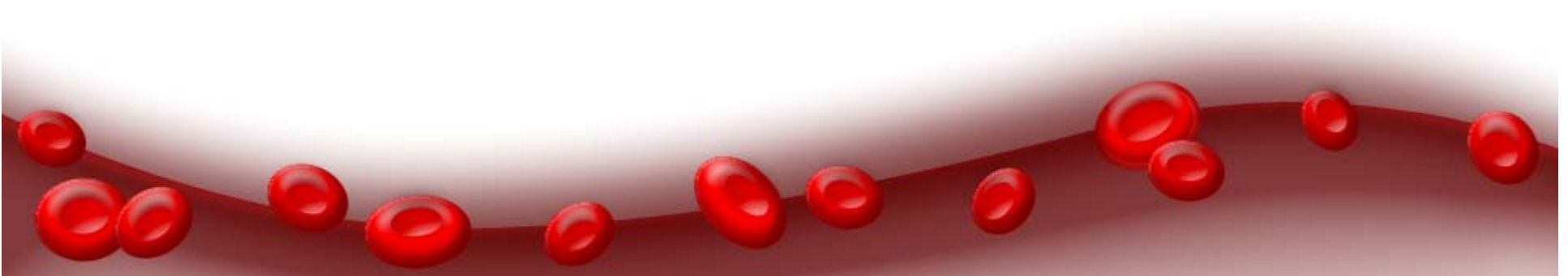


d did not  
by being



# Why is talking to patients scary?

- They Bite
- We don't have the training
- We don't want to misinform them



# Where should we go with this

- Offer education on educating to MLTs
- Offer MLT consults to patients
- Would this be good for patients?
- Would this be good for the MLT profession?



# References

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Questions?

