

## Questions to Ask My Doctor

If you are having surgery, ask your nurse or doctor for more information about blood conservation programs in your area. These are programs which are intended to reduce or eliminate a need for a blood transfusion. To find more information about blood transfusion, please visit [www.transfusionontario.org](http://www.transfusionontario.org).

### Resources include:

- **My First Transfusion** Illustrated children's book outlining what you need to know about getting blood.
- **Blood Transfusion: Information for Patients**, Long Version. Developed for patients and families to provide basic information on blood transfusion and to help patients make informed decisions regarding their treatment options.
- **Answers About Rh Immune Globulin** contains information about the rationale for the use of RhIG.
- **Special Blood Requirements Patient Fact Sheets** such as:
  - Patient Fact Sheet - Irradiated Blood
  - Patient Fact Sheet - Red Blood Cell (RBC) Antibodies
  - Patient Fact Sheet - Platelet Antibodies
  - Patient Fact Sheet - Washed Blood
  - Patient Fact Sheet - HLA-Matched Platelets
  - Patient Fact Sheet - IgA Deficient
  - Patient Fact Sheet - Weak or Partial D (Rh) Type
- **IVIg Facts for Outpatients** contains information on what is IVIG, how it is administered and what are the risks.

### Questions you might ask:

1. How long should I expect the transfusion to take?
2. What happens if I do not consent to the blood transfusion?
3. Are there alternatives to the transfusion?
4. What are the risks of transfusion?
5. What is my blood group?
6. How do I prepare for the blood transfusion?
7. How will I feel during and after the blood transfusion?
8. Can I go home right after the blood transfusion?
9. Will I be able to drive after a blood transfusion?
10. How do you know how much blood to give me?
11. Are there special treatments and concerns for patients who will be transfused with red cells on a long term basis?

**Other questions for my doctor:**

**Question 1:**

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**Answer:**

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**Question 2:**

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**Answer:**

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**Question 3:**

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**Answer:**

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