

Appendix 1

Neonatal red blood cell transfusion practices in Switzerland: national survey and review of international recommendations

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Original article | doi:10.4414/smw.2020.20178

Cite this as: Swiss Med Wkly. 2020;150:w20178 (Appendix 1)

1. What is the name of your laboratory?
2. Does your laboratory provide red blood cells for newborns?
3. Which recommendations do you follow in your laboratory?
4. Which type of blood bags do you provide (full pouches or split pouches)?
5. If you prepare split pouches: what is the volume of a split pouch?
6. Do you prepare the split pouches yourself or do you order them from another laboratory of the BTS?
7. What is the maximum storage time you use for standard red blood cell transfusions (days)?
8. What is the maximum storage time you use for red blood cell transfusions in the context of an exchange transfusions (days)?
9. Do you have a stock of blood bags, or do you prepare blood bags on order only?
10. Which blood groups are used for neonatal red blood cell transfusions?
11. If you do not use O negative blood for red blood cell transfusions: do you consider the maternal blood group to decide on which blood group is required for the baby?
12. Red blood cell transfusions: which technique do you use to prepare a full or a split pouch?
13. Exchange transfusions: which technique do you use to prepare blood pouches?
14. For which patients do you irradiate red blood cells before transfusion?
15. If you irradiate red blood cells for premature infants only: what is your lower gestational age limit?
16. If you irradiate red blood cells for premature infants only: what is your upper postnatal age limit?
17. If you irradiate red blood cells for full term infants as well: what is your upper postnatal age limit?
18. Where do you store blood bags?
19. How long can red blood cells be transfused once the bag has been spiked?
20. Which blood (umbilical cord, venous puncture, heel prick) is used to determine the baby's blood group?
21. What standard tests are performed on the baby's blood??
22. When do you perform a direct antiglobulin test (DAT) on the baby's blood?
23. When DAT is positive, which analyses do you perform next?
24. In which situations is maternal blood routinely tested?
25. Is the release of the red blood cell transfusion bound to compatibility tests?
26. Which red blood cell transfusions require a compatibility testing with the baby's blood?

27. Up to which postnatal age (weeks) will the red blood cell transfusions be checked for compatibility with the baby's blood?
28. Which red blood cell transfusions require a compatibility testing with the mother's blood?
29. Up to which postnatal age (weeks) will the red blood cell transfusions be checked for compatibility with the mother's blood?
30. Which patient data must be known before a red blood cell transfusion can be approved?