

What are the benefits of PAD?

You could have a transfusion of your own blood if there was a lot of bleeding during or after your operation and your red blood cell level became too low. A transfusion of your own blood avoids the risks of infectious viruses (like HIV and Hepatitis). PAD blood transfusions also avoid the risks of allergic and immune reactions (caused by having blood from another person in your body). The other risks of blood transfusion (hemolytic reaction and bacterial infection) are the same as for volunteer donor transfusions.

How much Blood will be taken?

Your doctor decides how many units of blood you need to donate based on the type of operation, your general health, and your red blood cell level. The last unit of blood must be taken at least two weeks before the date of your operation.

What happens if more Blood than I have donated is needed during or after my operation?

The blood you have donated will always be used first. If your doctor feels you need more blood transfused to benefit your life and health, volunteer donor blood can be given to you. Before your operation tell the doctor your wishes, if you should need more blood than you have donated. This is the same as choosing to accept or refuse a blood transfusion.

What happens to my donated Blood if I don't need it?

If you do not need a blood transfusion during or after your operation, your donated blood is destroyed. It is not used for other patients. It is stored at the hospital until it can no longer be safely transfused (a period of 35 days from when you donated it).

How do I arrange to have my Blood taken?

A referral to the Canadian Blood Services Autologous Blood Donor Clinic is made by your doctor through the blood conservation nurse. You can donate your blood at the location closest to you. The Canadian Blood Services will contact you by telephone to arrange an appointment to donate your blood.

What tests are done on my Blood?

With your first donation, all the regular Canadian Blood Services tests (HIV, Hepatitis, and Syphilis) will be done just as for volunteer blood donations. If any tests are abnormal, you and your doctor will be notified.

What should I do to prepare for donating my Blood?

You will need to take iron supplements to help your body rebuild the blood you donated. You should start taking the iron one week before your first donation. You should continue taking the iron up to the day of your operation. Please refer to the Iron: Questions and Answers brochure.

What happens at the appointment to donate my Blood?

Before donating your blood: Eat, drink and take your medicine as you normally would.

Bring to your blood donation appointment: Have your Health Card and a list of your allergies and medications with you.

At the Canadian Blood Services:

- You will be registered as if you were a regular blood donor.
- You will be asked to fill out a Health Assessment Questionnaire.
- You will be asked to sign a consent form for autologous donation.
- The clinic nurse will check your red blood cell level and your blood pressure.
- The actual donating of your blood takes about 15 minutes.