

Surgery Patients Refusing Blood Transfusion: Patient Care Considerations

Surgeon/Surgery Team

- A) Assess: Goal of surgery: benefits verses risks of blood loss
 Anticipated blood loss: define minimum preoperative Hb (Hemoglobin) level required
 Hb, Platelets, Ferritin, Creatinine, INR/PTT
 Patient's Height, Weight, BMI, Age, Co-morbidities, Medication
- B) Complete and fax to Blood Transfusion Laboratory:
 Refusal/Consent with Restrictions of Transfusion of Blood and/or Blood Products
https://intra.lhsc.on.ca/priv/forms/search/search_results.php (form NS5646 Rev. 2014/06/01)
- C) If indicated, refer ASAP (ideally 30 or more days pre-op) to Patient Blood Management (ext. 32707)
- D) Table 1: Strategies to consider for Patient's Refusing Transfusion

Preoperative	Intra-operative	Post-operative
<p>Anemia Investigation Hemoglobin/Ferritin Diagnosis may be deferred to Family Dr.</p> <p>Hemoglobin Optimization Treatments: PO: Iron, vitamin B12, folic acid If Indicated: Iron IV Epoetin Alfa (Eprex) if given 1) Aspirin 81 mg daily until 3 days pre-op unless contraindicated 2) compression stockings post-operatively 3) VTE prophylaxis per routine post-op care</p> <p>Autologous Blood Donation: If patient accepts/procedure indicates</p>	<p>Communicated, Coordinated Surgeon and Anesthesiologist plan</p> <p>Attention to Hemostasis Harmonic scalpel Fluid Management avoid hypo/hypervolemia Hypotensive Anesthesia Cell Salvage: if patient accepts; consider option to collect and only process/transfuse if blood loss indicates Antifibrinolytics Topical hemostatic agents Acute Normovolemic Hemodilution</p> <p>Cardiopulmonary Bypass: circuit, retrograde autologous prime, heparin/protamine management, point of care testing</p>	<p>Minimize blood tests: only test if result will lead to specific treatment; Consider using smaller volume blood tubes</p> <p>Augment surgical recovery: pain control normovolemia normothermia supplemental oxygen promote comfort</p> <p>Optimize erythropoiesis: iron, vitamin B12, folic acid minimum 1 month post-op</p> <p>Assess Patient: symptoms, if indicated hemoglobin If necessary consider: Iron IV Epoetin Alfa (Eprex)</p>