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
   [Link](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

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<tr>
<th>Preoperative</th>
<th>Intra-operative</th>
<th>Post-operative</th>
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| **Anemia Investigation**
Hemoglobin/Ferritin
Diagnosis may be deferred to
Family Dr. | **Communicated, Coordinated Surgeon and Anesthesiologist plan**
Attention to Hemostasis
Harmonic scalp
Fluid Management avoid hypo/hypervolema
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 | Minimize blood tests: only test if result will lead to specific treatment;
Consider using smaller volume blood tubes |
| **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 | Cardiopulmonary Bypass: circuit, retrograde autologous prime, heparin/prostamine management, point of care testing | Augment surgical recovery:
pain control
normovolemia
normothermia
supplemental oxygen
promote comfort |
| **Optimize erythropoiesis**: iron, vitamin B12, folic acid minimum 1 month post-op | Assess Patient:
symptoms, if indicated hemoglobin
If necessary consider:
Iron IV
Epoetin Alfa (Eprex) |