



BLOOD LINE

THE *voluntary* BLOOD DONATION JOURNAL

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APHERESIS BLOOD DONOR PROGRAM-A NEED OF THE DAY

The word apheresis was a high-sounding jargon for me when I joined for M.D. in Transfusion Medicine three years back.

However, a period of fever crisis marked by acute shortage of platelets and insufficient donor pool even for the commonest blood group types made me realize that how simple yet effective a procedure of blood donation apheresis is.

Apheresis can generally be defined as removing whole blood from a donor or a patient and separating it into individual components by an apheresis machine. One particular component is removed and the remaining blood components are then reintroduced into the blood stream of the same donor or the patient. The components which are separated and withdrawn include platelets (platelet apheresis), plasma (plasma apheresis), packed red cells (erythrocyt apheresis), leukocytes (leukapheresis), hematopoietic stem cells etc. Apheresis can also be applied as a therapeutic modality for certain medical conditions. The purpose of therapeutic apheresis is to remove an undesired component of the blood which contributes to a disease state.

Platelet transfusion can be a life-saving procedure in preventing or treating serious complications resulting from haemorrhagedue to thrombocytopenia or platelet dysfunction. This is usually associated with conditions like dengue fever, disseminated intravascular coagulation, immune disorders, cancer chemotherapy, glanzmann's thrombasthenia etc.

Platelets are mainly obtained by two different methods: differential centrifugation of whole blood units or apheresis technology. The major advantage of apheresis is that enough quantity of platelets can be collected from a single donor to constitute

a transfusion dose. In contrast, to obtain an equivalent number, pooling of 4 to 6 whole blood-derived platelet concentrates are necessary. The reduction in donor exposures by using apheresis platelets has the potential advantages for transfusion recipients in reducing the incidence of transfusion-transmitted infections, platelet allo-immunization and platelet refractoriness. The procedure can be repeated after 48 hours in the same donor as opposed to the three month interval in whole blood donation. This will be of immense help in maintaining an efficient donor pool and a resource of rare blood group types in urgent needs.

Since the disposable kits are expensive, tests for disease screening is done before collecting blood, as opposed to whole blood donation. So chances of wastage of blood products can be avoided. Considerable amount of plasma collected along with platelets will help in correcting the coagulation defects in addition to thrombocytopenia. To assure that only a safe amount of blood is drawn, the collection process is customized based on the donor's physical size, donation frequency as well as multiple other factors. Issues of safety and quality, which are the basic elements in blood banking, are more effectively met by the use of single donor apheresis components.

However, apheresis faces some pressing challenges. Lack of proper awareness among the donors and practicing physicians is a matter of concern. Another issue is the limited availability of resources for implementing an apheresis program in government settings. Confusions regarding the procedure, frequency of donation, adverse health effects etc. exists among the blood donors. Hence, it becomes the duty of every transfusion medicine team to resolve these

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The Open View

queries and motivate voluntary blood donors for apheresis procedure.

For this, entire procedure and advantages of apheresis should be explained in detail to the donors. Make them aware that the procedure is painless and comfortable, though it takes a slightly longer time than whole blood donation. The donor can resume routine activities as in normal donation. There are hardly any serious complications and frequencies of adverse donor reactions are much lesser as compared to simple whole blood donation. Some donors raise doubt regarding the chance of infection when blood is reintroduced into the body or whether the blood comes into contact with the blood of another donor or a patient. Since disposable kits are used, the chance of infection is virtually non-existent.

Dedicated donors and an excellent registry are prerequisites for success of any apheresis program. For encouraging apheresis donation, all attempts should be made at voluntary blood donation camps to take a step in this direction. Since the safest are voluntary, non-remunerated blood donors from low risk populations, a guideline should be designed for blood donor recruitment and a program should be implemented for proper communication. Arrange motivational talks and awareness campaigns on apheresis in youth clubs, educational institutions, public and private firms. By adopting these policies we can maintain a permanent well-indexed record of voluntary blood donors for apheresis. For providing such good quality products, the transfusion service must necessarily be supported with committed programs from the governmental side.

WORLD BLOOD DONOR DAY

CELEBRATIONS



World Blood Donor Day Inaugural Ceremony

TERUMO PENPOL celebrated World Blood Donor Day in a different way with lot of fun and games.

The theme for 2014 World Blood Donor Day was "Safe Blood For Saving Mothers." As a curtain raiser event on June 13, TERUMO PENPOL Limited in association with Kerala Government Medical Officers Association (KGMOA) organized a CME on "Safe Blood For Saving mothers" in par with WBDD theme. The Health Secretary, Mr.Ellangovan delivered the Special Address. Mr.C Padmakumar, CMD of TERUMO PENPOL Limited delivered the Keynote Address which was thought provoking.

A group of 93 Doctors including Gynecologists, General Medicine Doctors and Clinicians attended the event. A CME on Safe Blood for Saving Mothers was taken by Dr. K C Usha the Chief Blood Transfusion Officer of Medical College Blood Bank and Dr. Mary Aloysious, the Chief Blood Transfusion officer of General Hospital Blood Bank covered a session on "Hemovigilance

Program In India"

On 14th June World Blood Donor Day TERUMO PENPOL rewarded individuals, who had made remarkable contributions to voluntary blood donation. The best blood donors of TERUMO PENPOL who had donated 4 times in 2013 were also honored and recognized.

TERUMO PENPOL had also arranged Snake and Ladder game and Wall Painting on WBDD theme. The participants had a great day with a lot of fun. There was also a Radio Jockey selection by Red FM Radio where one got to hear brilliant and funny talks by the participants Ms. Parvathy Nair, TV Anchor and Program Head, Red FM Radio inaugurated the WBDD ceremony. Parvathy Nair said "Blood donation is considered a dry subject. It is not supposed to be something colorful like Valentine's and Friendship day. But this time Penpol is celebrating the occasion of WBDD. Red FM has been associated with Penpol for the last four or five years. This year I came to know that there was a scarcity of donors for pregnant women in need of

blood during delivery." She adds, "If one starts donating blood at the age of 18 then that person can save 500 people during his or her lifetime. There should be an education on blood donation. One blood donation saves up to three lives. In most classes only two or three students donate blood. How great would it be if in a class of 40 students all donated blood."

Hashim P, a Senior Technician and one of the best Blood Donors said that he had donated blood more than 60 times during his life. He had started donating blood at the age of 22 when he joined Penpol. He was awarded at the function since he donated four times in 2013. This is what he has to say, "My Company encouraged blood donation. It made me aware of its importance. I always answer to calls asking for blood donation. I hope this function will encourage the next generation to donate blood." He adds, "My wife was also awarded for the same reason. I get an award every year. Last year Kerala State Blood Donors Association honored me for the same reason."

Yentha.com was the Media Online Partner and Red FM Radio was the Official Radio Partner of the event.



Mr, C Padmakumar, Chairman and Managing Director of TERUMO PENPOL delivering the Keynote address at the seminar on "Safe Blood For Saving Mothers" organized as part of World Blood Donor Day Celebrations



REPEAT REGULAR DONORS



Snake & Ladder Game organized by TERUMO PENPOL Limited as part of World Blood Donor Day Celebrations



FM Radio Promoting Voluntary Blood Donation



World Blood Donor Day Theme Wall Painting Event

Dear Baby,

Thank you. Always glad to contribute when required.
regards

Dr Graeme Woodfield, Specialist in Transfusion Medicine
Dept of Molecular Medicine and Pathology, School of Medical Sciences
The University of New Zealand

Dear Baby,

Thanks for sending the latest Blood Line Journal. I really like the front page article in this issue, about promoting voluntary blood donation, by the doctor from New Zealand. I've forwarded it to my area American Red Cross group in Philadelphia Pennsylvania, for their possible use in generating new blood drive sponsors.

Keep up the good work!

Ronald McMahon

Vineland Rotary Club, Vineland, New Jersey USA

Thanks Baby Madam,

I have gone through the issue of Blood Line and like it.

Pl send the next issue also.

Regards.

Jayant Umalkar

Proprietor, Saral Enterprises, Thane, Mumbai



Thanks Baby Madam for the journal and for including our article. Hats off to you in taking up so many campaigns and really appreciate your effort in bringing in so many groups here in TVM to blood donation related activities.

Regards


Brijesh

Sr. Software Engineer

Gemini Software

Impressive Individuals

WHEN PANY IS THICKER THAN BLOOD



Every two seconds, somebody needs blood in India. In fact, a single accident victim may require 10 units of blood. And of the approximate 60 per cent Indian population that is eligible to donate blood, only one per cent actually does in a year.

It becomes essential then to donate blood and spread awareness about doing so. And the Pany family from Dhenkanal town in Odisha, where donating blood is a tradition, leads the way by setting an example.

Biranchi Narayan Pany, 62, has donated at least 103 units of blood in various camps and in times of need for friends, acquaintances as well as strangers. His two daughters, too, have been regular donors. Similarly, his sister Suprava and younger brother's wife Binilata have also donated blood over a dozen times.

Their charity is much needed in a town like Dhenkanal where the number of road mishaps has increased of late as National Highway 55 passes right through the district and the region is growing industrially.

While Biranchi hit the 103rd mark at the age of 62, his younger brother Surya Narayan Pany (54) has donated blood 30 times. That is not all. The youngest of the siblings, Bishnu Narayan Pany (52), despite being physically challenged, has donated blood as many as 22 times so far.

Pany learnt the significance of blood donation from his professor Radha Mohan who used to encourage students to donate blood.

" I remember his eyes

welling up once in the classroom when he was describing how people were dying for want of blood. That is when I embraced this philosophy and started donating blood even when voluntary camps were not so common," Biranchi says.

He says people fear donating blood will be painful, time consuming, it would make them weak or cause loss of potency or infections, but these are just myths and none of this is true. "My wife, who passed away five years ago, was initially opposed to the idea of donating blood," he says.

"But once the common myths associated with blood donation she had were dispelled, she understood. Before she breathed her last, she had donated as many as 14 units of blood in a gap of every six months," says Biranchi, an advocate.

His nephew and niece too have donated blood several times during college camps and otherwise.

Apart from donating blood actively, Biranchi has also worked to create awareness on voluntary blood donation.

He is the chairman of Dhenkanal Blood Donors and Motivators Association that was formed 10 years ago and works closely with Red Cross Blood Bank to promote awareness on voluntary blood donation. The association has organised several camps with support of the district administration, Red Cross Blood Bank and civil society bodies in the area.

"We organise blood donation camps in clubs, religious centres, industries, public places and spread awareness among students, industry workers as well as government officials to meet gap between demand and supply," Biranchi says.

"We must not beg, rather involve more people in blood donation camps on a regular basis," he says. "I am confident that I can donate blood till I am 65. Before I die, I must do my bit to save lives."





WORLD BLOOD DONOR DAY 2014 CELEBRATIONS



AT JUBILEE MISSION MEDICAL COLLEGE, THRISSUR

Dr NITHYA MOHANAN

PG Resident, Dept. Transfusion Medicine, JMMC, TCR sharing her experience

We at Jubilee Mission Medical College decided not just to celebrate World Blood Donors Day, but celebrate it with a purpose, a vision, to spread the theme of this year "Give Blood To Those Who Give Life" in mind. We decided to come up with some out of box ideas to celebrate the occasion.

The whole event was spread over 7 days as we celebrated the "Blood Week. The initiative was taken up by the Transfusion Medicine Department, JMMC, Thrissur headed by Prof. Susheela J Inna. We along with the medical and paramedical students made the entire week an unforgettable affair. The programme also witnessed active participation from ASHRAYA, a charitable trust of medics JMMC and KRONOZ, the group of dancing medics, JMMC. The Chief patron Director of the institution inaugurated the programme on 9th June. Principal Dr. V K Ramankutty flagged off the poster making competition which was open for College and School Students in and around Thrissur District, the programme witnessed participation of around 100 students. Under college students category 1st prize was bagged by Government Arts College Thrissur and second prize by JMMC, Thrissur and School Students Nirmala Matha School and Sacred Heart School, Thrissur bagged first and second prize respectively.

Second day, 10th June a QUIZ Competition was held for the MBBS students of our college. After the preliminary round conducted by for 60 participants, 4 teams were selected. Quiz master Dr. Abhishek, Dept of Transfusion medicine, Kidwai Institute of Oncology, Bangalore conducted the event at

4 pm on 10th June. The programme was enthralling and the experience for the medics as it involved curious and crazy rounds like Dumcharadz and other innovative rounds.

3rd day 11th June was the day of prize distribution for poster and quiz and Voluntary Blood Donors camp was organised on the day of the official inauguration of the ceremony by Assistant Director Rev. Fr Sunil of the college.

Dr. Henry, Staff coordinator and Assistant professor, Dept. of Transfusion Medicine JMMC, delivered an insightful speech on the recent advances in the field of blood donation. Vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Nithya Mohanan, Resident Transfusion Medicine and PG coordinator Ashraya charitable Trust. All the posters were exhibited following the function.

On 12 June the event reached a vibrant peak with an unprecedented "Flash Mob" by the Kronoz, the group of medics who danced, spreading the theme. Nearly 100 medics participated in the mega event conducted at Railway Station platform, Thrissur at 4:30 pm. Educational pamphlets were distributed to the curious onlookers and travelers.

The week came to an end with two VBD camps conducted on 13th and 14th June, 2014. The camp on 13th was at Nirmala Matha School, Thrissur and 14th at our Blood Bank, JMMC. The camp and Blood week ended by 'cutting a cake' and distributing them among the donors who had voluntarily turned up to donate blood. Dr. Ramesh A P, Dr. Nitin Henry, Assistant Professors, PG Residents Dr. Mohammad Rafi, Dr. Nithya Mohanan, Dr. Ganesh, coor-

dinators Ashraya charitable trust also participated on the occasion to give it a beautiful ending.

Sankara Eye Hospital, Bangalore in association with CII-Young Indians Bangalore & Rotary Bangalore TTK Blood Bank celebrated 'World Blood Donor Day'

Sankara Eye Hospital, Bangalore in association with CII-Young Indians Bangalore & Rotary Bangalore TTK blood bank celebrated 'World Blood Donor Day', where the employees of Sankara and the members of Young Indian Bangalore and walk-in patients to the hospitals donated blood on June 14. Present on the occasion were Mr. Vikram Chaudhuri, CEO of Sankara Eye Hospital, Bangalore, Siddharth Venkatesh, Chairman of Young Indians Bangalore & Dr. Latha Jagannathan, Medical Director & Managing Trustee, BMST Team.

World Blood Donors Day celebrated at J Watumull Global Hospital & Research Centre and Radha Mohan Mehrotra Global Hospital Trauma Center

On June 14, the staff of J Watumull Global Hospital & Research Centre and Radha Mohan Mehrotra Global Hospital Trauma Centre celebrated World Blood Donors Day. Blood bank supervisor Sanjeevani Bhandare presented the annual activity report of the component blood bank at Abu Road and the whole blood bank at Mt Abu. In the run up to this programme, the blood bank had conducted a poster competition to highlight the importance of blood donation. Chief guest, Sirohi Superintendent of Police Lovely Katiyar presented the prize to the winner, a BSc nursing student.

Also, voluntary donors and donation camp organisers shared their experience of blood donation and were presented gifts

WBDD event at Fortis Hospital



This world Blood Donor's day we at Fortis hold our hands together for an incredible campaign "Safe blood for saving mothers." According to the records 800 women die from pregnancy or childbirth complications. Severe bleeding during the delivery causes mortality, morbidity and long term disability. Our motto towards this campaign is to educate people about why timely access to safe blood is essential across all countries thus preventing maternal deaths.

The Day and its Relevance: 14th June of every year is celebrated as World Blood Donor Day by WHO (World Health Organization). The importance of this day is to cre-

ate awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products and to thank all those volunteers for donating blood and for saving lives. Most of the pregnancy related deaths are happening in the developing countries than under developed countries. The major cause for death and long term disability is severe blood loss during delivery and after childbirth. Many countries across the globe face the challenge of accessing safe and adequate blood and blood products. Safe use of blood transfusion is still a major concern.

With the changing life style, it is relatively very common to see one among 10 women to bleed during pregnancy. It is very necessary to contact your physician or specialist immediately if you have any such issues during pregnancy. It might not be anything serious but it's important you make sure nothing is wrong. Until you can see a health-care professional do not take any medication and just lie down and rest.

EARLY PREGNANCY

There are chances of seeing some light blood spots in the initial days, which is called spotting. This happens when the foetus plants itself into the wall of the womb. It is also known as implantation bleeding and it often occurs when the first period after conception is due. Bleeding during the first three months of pregnancy can be a sign of miscarriage or ectopic pregnancy (this is when the foetus starts to grow inside the fallopian tubes instead of the womb). Most miscarriages occur during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy, and sadly, most of them cannot be prevented. Ectopic pregnancies are much less common than miscarriages, affecting about one in 100 pregnancies.

LATER STAGE OF PREGNANCY

In the later stages of pregnancy there might be different reasons for vaginal bleeding. Some of the common reasons are mentioned below.

- **Cervical ectropion** - It is where there are harmless changes in the neck of the womb (cervix). This is one of the most common causes of bleeding during the later stages of pregnancy.
- **A "show"** - It is where a plug of mucus from the cervix comes away just before labour. It can look like a lump of discharge and may be blood stained. If it happens before you are due to give birth, it might be a sign of early labour.
- **Placental abruption** - This is a serious condition where the placenta starts to come away from the inside of the womb wall. It usually causes stomach pain, even if there is no bleeding. If it happens close to your baby's due date, chances are to have an early delivery.
- **Placenta Praevia** - This is when placenta lies low in the womb, partially or completely blocking the baby's path to the cervix. The

placenta usually moves gradually upwards during pregnancy, but if it's still low when the baby is due to be born, you might need to have a Caesarean section (where the baby is delivered through an incision in your tummy and womb).

- **Miscarriage** - Vaginal bleeding in the later stages of pregnancy can also be a sign of a miscarriage. However, miscarriages are very rare after the third month of pregnancy.

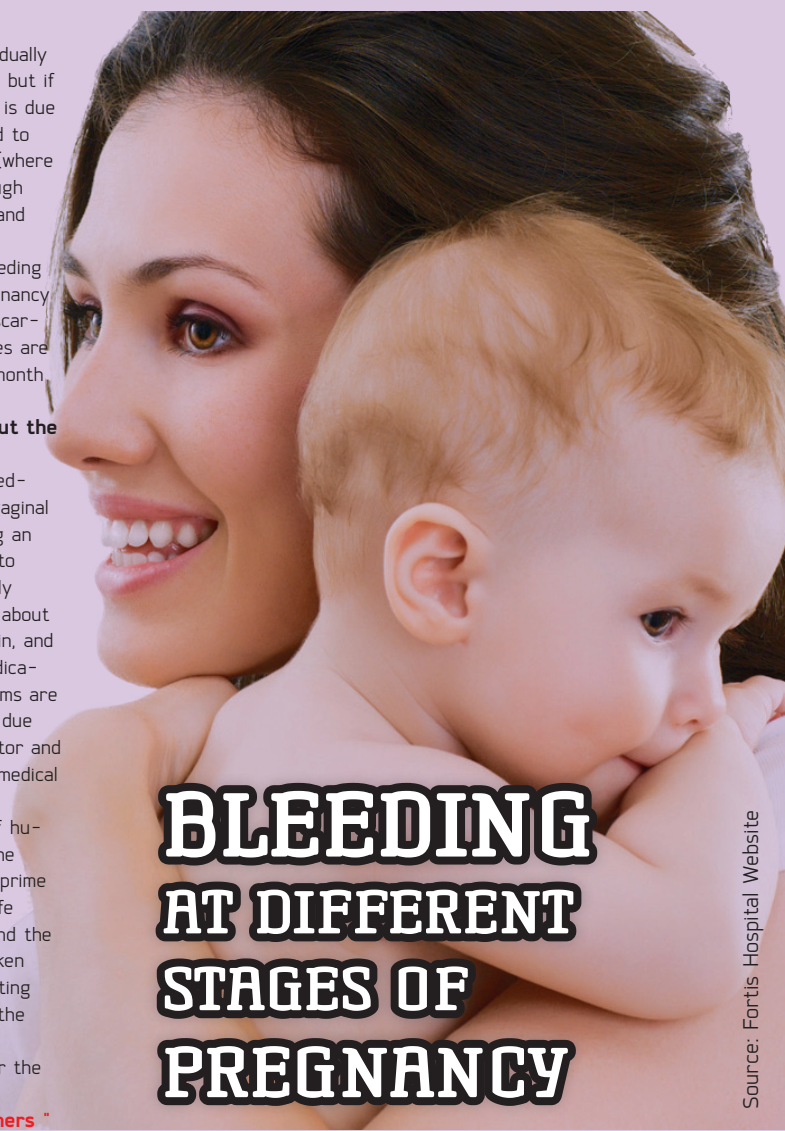
It is very essential to find out the cause for the bleeding :

To know the reason for the bleeding, one might need to have a vaginal or pelvic examination. Also doing an ultrasound scan or blood tests to check hormonal levels are usually suggested. Doctor may enquire about other symptoms like cramps, pain, and dizziness, food habits, timely medication and exercise. If the symptoms are not severe and the baby is not due for a while, the doctor will monitor and suggest the suitable course of medical treatment.

Considering the complications of human birth and uncertainty of the mother's body changes, it is of prime importance that she is given safe blood and helps to revive her and the baby's condition. Small steps taken by each individual towards donating blood can help the nation curb the pregnancy mortality rates.

Let's Pledge to donate blood for the well being of a New Life.

" Safe Blood for Saving Mothers "



BLEEDING AT DIFFERENT STAGES OF PREGNANCY

CELEBRATING 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD BLOOD DONORS DAY @ THALASSAEMIC CHILDREN WELFARE ASSOCIATION

The Thalassaemic Children Welfare Association (Regd.) Chandigarh organized two voluntary Blood Donation Camps on 14th June, 2014 to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the "World Blood Donors Day" which is celebrated around the countries of the world since 2004.

2) One camp was organized at the Zakir Hall, Research Block A of the PGI, Chandigarh which was its 140th voluntary blood donation camp and another camp was organized simultaneously in the Blood Bank of the GMCH, Sector 32, Chandigarh, which was its 141th camp.

3) Dr. Zora Singh, Chancellor of the DeshBhagat University was the Chief Guest at the camp held in PGI, Chandigarh. Several high dignitaries like Dr. Y.K. Chawla, Director PGI, Chandigarh, Dr. NeelamMarwaha,

HOD, Department of Transfusion Medicine, PGI, Chandigarh and Sh. Sanjay Abhigyan, Resident Editor, Amar Ujala Foundation graced the occasion with their presence for blessing the Blood Donors. About 332 Blood Donors from various towns of Punjab & Haryana States and Chandigarh donated blood at this camp by 2.30 PM.

4) The Blood Donation Camp held in the Blood Bank of the GMCH 32, Chandigarh was inaugurated by Sh. Anil Kumar, IAS, Health Secretary, UT Administration. Dr. Atul Sachdeva, Director Principal of the Hospital, was Guest of Honour. The Home Secretary showered in blessing to the blood donor. He also lauded the efforts of the TCWA for providing medical and moral support to the children suffering from Thalassaemia disease. About 243 Donors donated blood for the thalassaemics getting

treatment in that Hospital during the camp.

5) This society is organizing 6 blood donation camps every year since 1998 during the summer months when there is acute shortage of blood in the Blood Bank of PGI. Besides these camps, several more camps are organized throughout the year with the cooperation of various social and educational organizations such as Bharat Vikas Parishad, "Rohani Anjuman" Regd., Dev Samaj College, Saupin School and Association of Chandigarh Hoteliers etc.

6) The society collects about 8000 units of blood for PGI and GMCH 32 through these camps, so that 437 thalassaemics registered with the society could get timely blood transfusion, which acts as "Life Line" for their long survival.

Health Minister Harsh Vardhan donates blood on World Blood Donor Day on June 14 2014

Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan donated blood on the occasion of World Blood Donor Day on 14 June 2014, in New Delhi. While donating blood, the minister said that voluntary blood donation should be encouraged as the need for safe blood is rising, and also revealed that donating blood reduces the chances of falling prey to heart disease and obesity by 80 per cent.



Vardhan also inaugurated the 'Blood Donation Drive' at Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, where he urged all healthy citizens between the age of 18 to 65 to donate blood regularly, and later did it himself.

According to health experts, India faces a blood shortage of 3 million units which can be addressed if an additional two percent of Indians donated blood. (ANI)

Medical Professionals come forward to eradicate blood donation fright

As ALLAHABAD city observed World Blood Donor Day on 14 June, the District Aids Prevention Control Unit (DAPCU) resolved to eradicate various wrong myths and misconception attached with blood donation. The resolve comes in wake of unit's estimate that more than 55% people desist from donation camps owing to these wrong notions. During an event organized to mark the day, DAPCU officials described blood transfusion as "a life saving measure" required while dealing with heavy bleeding, traumatic injury, anaemia or blood product deficiency and in treatment of cancer patients.

District tuberculosis officer (DTO) and nodal officer of DAPCU Dr OP Shahi said, "Any healthy person in the age group of 18-50 years with normal blood pressure and pulse rate can donate blood."

Describing it as a "painless process," he said that the donor only feels prick of needle. "Blood donation does not take more than 30 minutes

and only 350-450 ml blood is taken out during a session which gets replenished within three weeks," he added. He also rubbished the misconception that blood donation results in weakness. "Increased intake of fluid and juice replenishes the lost fluid within few hours. One can resume normal routine after donating blood," he added.

Linking donation directly with saving lives, officials called upon people to come forward for the novel cause. In a bid to create mass awareness among youngsters, the District Aids Coordination Committee has decided to widen their reach in both rural and urban sectors so that more and more people come forward for the same. In the same regard, a rally was also taken out in prominent city areas with the theme "Safe blood for saving mothers." Meanwhile, doctors said that donor should not be HIV positive or in high risk of HIV infection, Hepatitis B or C and cancer. "Donating blood is a habit among many families and there are many examples where all family members above 18 years regularly donate



blood," said an official adding "Youths should be encouraged to donate blood," added officials. Officials, however, admitted that there was a vast gap between supply and demand for fresh and protected blood and people must come forward for voluntary blood donation.

Plans are afoot to hold informational, education and communication (IEC) programmes regarding blood donation at blocks, towns and villages to clear myths about blood donation.

KOLKATA: Sourav Mallick, 30, gets blood transfusion at Medical College and Hospital Calcutta's (MCHC) Thalassemia Day Care Centre every week. But the O+ patient had to go without one last week as blood banks across the city faced a severe crisis. Admitted at the same hospital with blood cancer is Dibyendu Saha, 23. After every chemotherapy, he needs blood continuously for three weeks. His next transfusion is due next week. The crisis left his relatives panicky as they were not sure from where they will get blood for him.

Facing an unprecedented crisis, doctors, nurses and staffers of MCHC came up with an extraordinary solution. They decided to donate blood to rescue the patients in distress. So it was a rare sight at the seminar room of the hospital's Institute of Haematology and Transfusion Medicine (IHTM) when doctors took turns to donate blood on Wednesday. And this was not just a one-time gesture. The drive will go on till the crisis gets over.

Times of India had recently highlighted how blood banks in the city were drying up as blood donation camps have become fewer because of the impending election and the heat.

"Blood transfusion is the lifeline for patients like me. The situation had become scary over the past few weeks as the banks kept dry-

ing up. This kind of initiative by doctors and staffers at MCHC has brought huge relief for us," said Somesh Chakraborty, 26, another blood cancer patient admitted at the hospital.

Doctors Swarnakamal Roy and Abir Sarkar had never donated blood before. But on Wednesday, the duo was among the first to take the plunge. Then colleagues Krishendu Roy (medicine), Ganesh Pujari and Dipanjan-Haldar followed. Nurses, laboratory assistants and even some liftmen could not keep themselves away from the cause. At the end of the day, about 40 units of blood made its way to the bank.

"Every summer there is a crisis and this time the election added to woes. For patients who need blood transfusion regularly, this yearly crisis is a huge concern. So we decided to do our bit. But this drive won't stop here. We will attempt to organize such camps three times a month till the crisis is over," said Prantar Chakrabarti of IHTM.

Inspired by the initiative, medical representatives like Prasanta Roy and Biswarup Chatterjee who came to visit doctors at the hospital donated blood as well. When the news spread, others like businessman Arvind Karnani arrived at the MCHC camp with five volunteers to contribute to the cause.

