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HIV: Current Reserch

Perspective

Advancements in Blood Transfusion Safety and Reduction in the Risk of HIV Transmission

Fiomi Zin*

Department of Medical Microbiology, Tokyo University of Science, Tokyo, Japan

DESCRIPTION

Blood transfusion is a life-saving procedure that has transformed the modern medicine and allowing for the replacement of blood components in patients who have lost large amount of blood or suffer from blood related disorders. While blood transfusion has a significant impact on healthcare, the transmission of infectious diseases particularly HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus), has been a concern in the past. However, significant steps have been made in ensuring the safety and efficacy of blood transfusion, minimizing the risk of HIV transmission.

Safety measures

The advances have been made in minimizing the risk of HIV transmission through blood transfusion. Strict screening processes have been implemented at blood collection centers to identify potential donors with HIV infection.

These measures include pre-donation interviews and potential exposure to the virus. Donors who engage in behaviours that increase the risk of HIV transmission, such as circulatory drug use or unprotected sex, are avoided from donating blood. Additionally, anonymous and confidential testing of donated blood samples using highly sensitive laboratory techniques has become the standard. This type of strict donor selection criteria and robust laboratory testing has significantly reduced the chances of transmitted HIV infections.

Nucleic Acid Testing (NAT)

One major advancement in ensuring the safety of blood transfusions is the implementation of Nucleic Acid Testing (NAT). NAT is a highly sensitive technique used to detect the genetic material of the virus in donated blood. Traditional screening methods depend on the detection of HIV antibodies, which can take several weeks to develop after infection. Nucleic Acid Testing (NAT) can detect the virus much earlier and reducing the time period and the chances of false-negative results. This technology has highly improved the effectiveness of screening donated blood and further minimizing the risk of HIV transmission through transfusion.

Testing blood products

The testing of blood products is an important step in ensuring transfusion safety. In addition to NAT, serological tests are performed to detect the presence of HIV antibodies or antigens in donated blood. Serological tests are depended for detecting HIV infection but may have a longer time period compared to NAT. Combining both NAT and serological tests helps minimize the chances of undetected HIV infections and provides a comprehensive evaluation of blood products before they are deemed safe for transfusion.

Patient education and informed consent

The screening and testing measures significantly reduce the risk of transfusion of HIV. It is important for patients to understand the risks associated with blood transfusion and be aware of the measures in place to ensure their safety. Healthcare professionals should provide detailed information to patients about the screening and testing processes, as well as the overall low risk of acquiring HIV through blood transfusion in modern healthcare settings. This transparency has a main role between healthcare providers and patients and empowers individuals to make informed decisions regarding their treatment.

CONCLUSION

The transmission of HIV through blood transfusion has been significantly relieve over the years due to the implementation of rigorous protocols and advanced testing technologies. Strict donor selection criteria, nucleic acid testing, donor deferral policies, and comprehensive serological testing have significantly reduced the risk of transfusion of HIV infections. The chances of acquiring HIV through blood transfusion in modern healthcare settings are now extremely low.

Correspondence to: Fiomi Zin, Department of Medical Microbiology, Tokyo University of Science, Tokyo, Japan, E-mail: fiozi@ezweb.ne.jp

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