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Short communication

A European survey on donor deferral for allergy: Rationale and initial results of a survey in 35 countries

*Enquête européenne sur ajournement au don de sang pour le motif d'allergie :
résultats préliminaires d'une enquête dans 35 pays participants*

O. Garraud^{a,b,*}, C. Martin^{b,c}, A. Haddad^{b,d}, M. Bagge Hansen^e, G. Rautmann^f,
S. MacLennan^g, R. Norda^h

^a Institut national de la transfusion sanguine, 6, rue Alexandre-Cabanel, 7539 Paris, France

^b EA3064, faculty of medicine of Saint-Étienne, university of Lyon, 42023 Saint-Étienne cedex 02, France

^c University hospital of Saint-Étienne, 42023 Saint-Étienne cedex, France

^d Department of clinical pathology and blood banking, Sacré-Coeur hospital, Lebanese university, Beirut, Lebanon

^e Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark

^f European directorate for the quality of medicines, the Council of Europe, 75185 Strasbourg, France

^g NHS blood and transplant, Leeds, United Kingdom

^h Akademiska sjukhuset, Uppsala, Sweden

Abstract

Allergy accounts to near 0.5% of all reported transfusion adverse events. The responsibility of blood components themselves and – therefore – of blood donors is still questioned. The European Community undertook a large international survey to address the consistency and homogeneity of medical selection of blood donors with regard to the risk of allergy, and especially of transferring allergy to recipients. This short report presents the salient points of the survey, stressing that there is inconsistency in addressing the allergy question within countries or systems, with paths of improvement.

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Keywords: Blood donor; Allergy; Hemovigilance; Adverse event

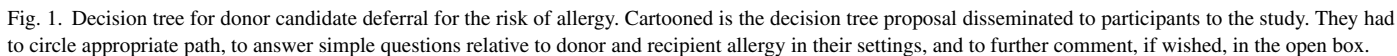
To mitigate the risk of increasing allergic-type reactions in the recipients of blood components, as this type of adverse event accounts for nearly 0.5% of reported hazards [1,2], most blood establishments (BEs) defer potential blood donors with a history of allergic symptoms; policies, however, seem to be inconsistent between BEs and countries. The TS-101, a subordinate working party of the European committee (partial agreement) on blood transfusion (CD-P-TS) GTS was asked to launch a survey to gather information from BEs/countries on donor selection policy regarding donor allergy, with three main objectives:

- to evaluate practices in different BEs/countries regarding mitigation of any risk related to allergy both in donors and recipients of the donated components;
- to appreciate whether the measures taken aim at protecting donors, or recipients, or both;
- to draft a recommendation to be submitted to the CD-P-TS if indicated.

The survey was prepared and disseminated to member and observer states to CD-P-TS, and other BEs in the Mediterranean region who are neither members nor observers to the CD-P-TS but have implemented French, Belgian, Dutch or German regulatory requirements applied to BEs. It consisted of two consecutive questionnaires. Responses to the first questionnaire (a regular

* Corresponding author. Institut national de la transfusion sanguine, 6, rue Alexandre-Cabanel, 7539 Paris, France.

E-mail address: ogarraud@ints.fr (O. Garraud).



Donor deferral policies with respect to history of allergy in the donor are not evidence-based and our survey indicated that no consistent attitude is taken even in countries with a declared specific policy. Further investigation by direct telephone or e-mail contact with group member representatives will help refine

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