

THE REASONS FOR REJECTING BLOOD DONORS

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Abstract

Individuals disqualified from donating blood are known as “deferred” donors. To make blood transfusion safe for the patients many safety measures are undertaken by the blood transfusion community. The most important is selection of blood donors. The rate and reasons of deferral, differs from region to region and one center to the other. We want to analyze the rate and various reasons for deferrals. A retrospective analysis of records of the voluntary blood donors, for 2 years, from January 2011 to December 2012 was done, in order to find out the rate and causes of deferral, both in male and female, in our blood bank. The study involved 12 306 donors who came to donate whole blood. Each donor was selected by a medical officer based on detailed medical history and brief physical examination of donors with regard to hemoglobin, blood pressure, temperature, and pulse regularity and rate. Detailed information on the donor deferral including the cause of deferral was recorded in deferral register. We used statistical method to detect the rate and reason for donor deferral. There were 12 306 donors, of which 1449 donors were deferred (11.7%) for various reasons. The three most common reasons for deferral were low hemoglobin levels 5.67 % of the donors or 48.1% of the rejected donors, hypotension and hypertension: 2.85% of the donors or 24.2% of the rejected donors and other medical conditions 1.85% of the donors or 15.7% of the rejected donors. The other are: high risk behavior 0.26% of the donors or 2.21% of the rejected donors, high risk exposure 0.49% of the donors or 4.16% of the rejected donors, travel and other reasons 0.53 % of the donors or 4.5 % of the rejected donors. In our study the unsuccessful phlebotomy was only 0.12%. By developing strategies to identify and rationalize donor selection criteria, the blood transfusion services should be able to decrease unnecessary deferrals. Also deferred donors should be helped to overcome their problems such that they move out from the category of Non-donors to permanent DONORS.

Keywords: *blood donor, deferral, permanent, temporary*