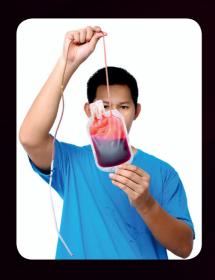
HEMOVIGILANCE

AN EFFECTIVE TOOL FOR IMPROVING TRANSFUSION SAFETY

EDITED BY RENÉ R.P. DE VRIES AND JEAN-CLAUDE FABER





WILEY-BLACKWELL

Hemovigilance

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An Effective Tool for Improving Transfusion Safety

EDITED BY

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Foreword

Hemovigilance is one of the most important activities for those of us who are active in the field of blood transfusion. Irrespective of your profession, whether blood banker, quality manager, donor physician, nurse, phlebotomist, laboratory technician, transfusing physician or hospital nurse, the safety of blood products from their "origin" in the blood donor until their use in the recipient is of utmost importance. The phrase "safety from vein to vein" was coined to illustrate the breadth of the field. Today, the field of hemovigilance is even more wide-ranging, covering blood components, tissues and cell preparations including donor vigilance, materiovigilance and safety of the patient.

While hemovigilance is well known to those who work in the field of transfusion medicine, there are important differences between countries when it comes to the implementation of national hemovigilance programs.

The International Hemovigilance Network (IHN) has done an excellent job in establishing common definitions and in bringing together the different national activities. Today in Europe, EU directives define our common standards in blood transfusion and similar approaches are taken in other regions of the world.

In June 2009, René de Vries, then President of the International Hemovigilance Network, was asked by Maria Khan, responsible for transfusion publications at Wiley-Blackwell, about the need for a handbook on hemovigilance that would outline and guide the reader on procedures of the transfusion chain. Maria asked René whether he believed such a book would be beneficial and, if so, who might make suitable editors and authors for the project.

The request from Wiley-Blackwell fell on fertile soil. After consultation with the IHN Board, René confirmed the need for such a book and moreover advised that the IHN Board had recently been discussing a similar idea. They were therefore willing to embark on the project. Finally, two IHN Board members agreed to take on the editorship of this book: René de Vries and Jean-Claude Faber.

Hemovigilance: An Effective Tool for Improving Transfusion Safety is the first book on this subject and its aim is to become the textbook on hemovigilance. This may well be the case since all the ingredients to achieve this aim are present: the editors developed a master plan and communicated this to all the authors, gathering the best experts from all over the world. Contributors demonstrated their commitment, writing their chapters according to the uniform instructions and definitions set out by the editors. The book is as comprehensive as is possible for such a big subject and many diverse examples from different settings are given.

It not only provides clear-cut answers to the 'Whats?' and 'Whys?', but also to the 'How do Is?' Examples of national and international hemovigilance systems and a summary of past achievements as well as new developments and future challenges will help readers to integrate their local or national experience into the global scheme.

We are very pleased with the new hemovigilance book and we hope that many readers from both within the field of transfusion medicine and from other fields such as quality and safety management, and regulatory affairs, will enjoy it. We are confident that *Hemovigilance: An Effective Tool for Improving Transfusion Safety* will contribute to the improvement of safety and quality of blood transfusion.

Erhard Seifried* and Markus M. Mueller Frankfurt/Main, Germany March 2012

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PART 1General Introduction