

HEMOVIGILANCE

AN EFFECTIVE TOOL FOR IMPROVING TRANSFUSION SAFETY

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



 WILEY-BLACKWELL

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An Effective Tool for Improving Transfusion Safety

EDITED BY

René R.P. De Vries MD

Past President of the International Haemovigilance Network (IHN) and Head of the Blood Transfusion Service, Department of Immunohematology and Blood Transfusion, Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden, The Netherlands

Jean-Claude Faber MD

President of the International Haemovigilance Network (IHN) and retired as Medical Director, Blood Transfusion Service of the Luxembourg Red Cross, Luxembourg

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List of Contributors

Ramir Alcantara MD

Registrar
Blood Services Group
Health Sciences Authority
Singapore

Ai Leen Ang MD, FRCPath

Consultant
Blood Services Group
Health Sciences Authority
Singapore;
Department of Haematology
Singapore General Hospital
Singapore

Simon A. Brown MBBS, MD, FRCP, FRCPath, FRACP, FRCPA

Clinical Advisor and Consultant Haematologist
Queensland Blood Management Program & Pathology
Queensland
Brisbane, Australia

Hannah Cohen MD, FRCP, FRPath

Consultant Haematologist and Honorary Senior Lecturer
University College London Hospitals and University College
London
Department of Haematology
London, UK

Magdy Elekiaby MSc, MD

Head of Blood Transfusion Center
Shabrawishi Hospital
Giza, Egypt

Madhav Erraguntla PhD

Senior Research Scientist
Knowledge Based Systems Inc
College Station, TX, USA

Katherine Forrester PhD

Transfusion Researcher
Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service
Edinburgh, UK

Gamal Gabra MD

Transfusion Medicine Consultant
Birmingham Blood Transfusion Center
Birmingham, UK

Peter R. Ganz PhD

Director, Centre for Biologics Evaluation
Health Canada
Ottawa, ON, Canada;
Adjunct Professor
Faculty of Medicine
University of Ottawa
Ottawa, ON, Canada

Naoko Goto MS

Deputy Director
Safety Vigilance Division
Blood Service Headquarters
Japanese Red Cross Society
Tokyo, Japan

Giuliano Grazzini MD, PhD

Director, National Blood Centre
Istituto Superiore di Sanità
Rome, Italy

Mark Grumbridge RGN BSc Dip N

Transfusion Practitioner
Department of Haematology
St George's Hospital and Medical School
London, UK

Reinhard Henschler MD

Head, Department of Production
Institute for Transfusion Medicine and
Immunohaematology
Clinics of the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University
Frankfurt/Main
German Red Cross Blood Donor Services
Baden-Wuerttemberg-Hessen
Frankfurt/Main, Germany

Salwa Hindawi MD, FRCPath, CTM

President of Saudi Society of Transfusion Medicine
 ISBT Eastern Mediterranean Regional Director
 Member of WHO Advisory Panel on Blood Safety
 Director of Blood Transfusion Services
 King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah
 Saudi Arabia

Satoru Hino MPharm

Deputy Director General
 (General Manufacturing/Distribution Supervisor)
 Blood Service Headquarters
 Japanese Red Cross Society
 Tokyo, Japan

Christopher J. Hogan MBBS, BSc (Hons), FRCPA

Principal Medical Officer
 National Blood Authority, Canberra;
 Chair, Australian Haemovigilance Advisory Committee
 Canberra, Australia

Jerry A. Holmberg PhD

Director, Scientific Affairs
 Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics Inc.
 Emeryville, CA, USA

Hany Kamel MD

Corporate Medical Director
 Blood Systems Inc.
 Scottsdale, AZ, USA

Mickey B.C. Koh MD, PhD, FRCPath

Consultant Haematologist
 Director, Stem Cell Transplant Programme
 St George's Hospital and Medical School
 London, UK;
 Medical Director, Cell Therapy Facility
 Health Sciences Authority
 Singapore;
 Division Director
 Blood Services Group
 Health Sciences Authority
 Singapore

Wim de Kort MD, PhD

Director, Donor Services
 Sanquin Blood Supply Foundation
 Nijmegen, The Netherlands

Matthew J. Kuehnert MD

Director, Office of Blood, Organ, and other Tissue Safety
 Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion
 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
 Atlanta, GA, USA

Juergen Luhm PhD

Quality Manager
 Institute for Transfusion Medicine and Immunohaematology
 Clinics of the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University
 Frankfurt/Main
 German Red Cross Blood Donor Services
 Baden-Wuerttemberg-Hessen
 Frankfurt/Main, Germany

Tanneke Marijt-van der Kreek MD

Chief Donor Physician in Southwestern Region
 Sanquin Blood Supply Foundation
 Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Brian McClelland MD

Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service
 Edinburgh, UK

Shun-ya Momose BPharm

Director
 Safety Vigilance Division
 (Safety Management Supervisor)
 Blood Service Headquarters
 Japanese Red Cross Society
 Tokyo, Japan

Markus M. Mueller

Consultant in Transfusion Medicine
 Department Head of Blood Donation
 Institute for Transfusion Medicine and Immunohaematology
 Clinics of the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University
 Frankfurt/Main
 German Red Cross Blood Donor Services
 Baden-Wuerttemberg-Hessen
 Frankfurt/Main, Germany

Thea Mueller-Kuller PhD

Quality Manager
 Institute for Transfusion Medicine and Immunohaematology
 Clinics of the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University
 Frankfurt/Main
 German Red Cross Blood Donor Services
 Baden-Wuerttemberg-Hessen
 Frankfurt/Main, Germany

Fátima Nascimento MD

Senior Consultant in Transfusion Medicine
 General Directorate of Health
 Lisbon, Portugal

Hitoshi Okazaki MD, PhD

Senior Director
 Research and Development Department
 Central Blood Institute
 Blood Service Headquarters
 Japanese Red Cross Society
 Tokyo, Japan

Hans-Ulrich Pfeiffer Dipl Biol

Production Manager
Institute for Transfusion Medicine and
Immunohaematology
Clinics of the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University
Frankfurt/Main
German Red Cross Blood Donor Services
Baden-Wuerttemberg-Hessen
Frankfurt/Main, Germany

Constantina Politis MD

Associate Professor of Medicine
Athens University;
Head of the Hellenic Coordinating Haemovigilance Centre
(SKAE)
Athens, Greece

Simonetta Pupella MD

Responsible Medical Area, National Blood Centre
Istituto Superiore di Sanità
Rome, Italy

Philippe Renaudier MD, MS

French Society of Vigilance and Transfusion Therapeutics
(SFVTT)
Regional Coordination of Hemovigilance
Agence Régionale de Santé Lorraine
Nancy, France

Martin R Schipperus MD, PhD

Hematologist
Head, Department of Hematology
Haga Teaching Hospital;
President, TRIP Dutch National Hemovigilance Office
The Hague, The Netherlands

Erhard Seifried MD, PhD

Professor of Transfusion Medicine
Chair for Transfusion Medicine and Immunohaematology
Medical Director and CEO
German Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service
Baden-Wuerttemberg—Hessen
Institute for Transfusion Medicine and
Immunohaematology
JW Goethe University Frankfurt/Main
Frankfurt/Main, Germany

Walid Sireis MUDr

Head, Quality Management
Institute for Transfusion Medicine and Immunohaematology
Clinics of the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University
Frankfurt/Main
German Red Cross Blood Donor Services
Baden-Wuerttemberg-Hessen
Frankfurt/Main, Germany

**Lisa J. Stevenson RN, Grad Dip Health Med Law,
Cert Transfus Practice, Cert Crit Care**

Transfusion Nurse Consultant
Blood Matters Program
Department of Health and Australian Red Cross Blood
Service
Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

Paul F.W. Strengers MD, FFPM

Director, Medical Affairs and Product Development
Division of Plasma Products
Sanquin Blood Supply Foundation
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

D. Michael Strong PhD

Affiliate Professor
Department of Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine
University of Washington School of Medicine
Seattle, WA, USA

Kenji Tadokoro MD, PhD

Executive Officer
Blood Service Board of Management;
Director General
Central Blood Institute
Blood Service Headquarters
Japanese Red Cross Society
Tokyo, Japan

Clare Taylor PhD FRCP FRCPath

Consultant in Haematology and Transfusion Medicine
Former Medical Director of SHOT
c/o SHOT Office, Manchester Blood Centre
Manchester, UK

Dafydd Thomas MBChB, FRCA

Consultant in Intensive Care Medicine
Morriston Hospital
Swansea, Wales

Anita van Tilborgh-de Jong MD

Senior Hemovigilance Physician
TRIP Dutch National Hemovigilance Office
The Hague, The Netherlands

Peter Tomasulo MD

Chief Medical and Scientific Officer
Blood Systems Inc.
Scottsdale, AZ, USA

Tomislav Vuk MD

Specialist in Transfusion Medicine
Head of Quality Control and Quality Assurance Department
Croatian Institute of Transfusion Medicine
Zagreb, Croatia

Barbara I. Whitaker PhD

Director, Data and Special Programs
AABB
Bethesda, MD, USA

Johanna Wiersum-Osselton MD

National Coordinator
TRIP Dutch National Hemovigilance Office
The Hague, The Netherlands
and
Senior Donor Physician
Sanquin Blood Supply Foundation
Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Lorna M. Williamson BSc, MD, FRCP, FRCPath

Medical and Research Director
NHS Blood and Transplant
Watford, UK

Jeroen de Wit PharmD

Vice Chair, Executive Board
Sanquin Blood Supply Foundation
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Erica M. Wood MBBS, FRACP, FRCPA

Consultant Haematologist
Chair, Serious Transfusion Incident Reporting (STIR)
Expert Group
Blood Matters Program
Department of Health and Australian Red Cross Blood
Service
and
Department of Clinical Haematology, Monash University
Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

Jun Wu MD, PhD

Blood Safety Surveillance and Health Care Acquired
Infection Division
Public Health Agency of Canada
Ottawa, ON, Canada

Pauline Y. Zijlker-Jansen MD

Hemovigilance and Tissue Vigilance Physician
TRIP Dutch National Hemovigilance Office
The Hague, The Netherlands

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 dis-

cussing 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

*past president of the International Society for Blood Transfusion (ISBT).

PART 1

General Introduction