LOOK BACK PROGRAMMES IN THE TRANSFUSION SERVICE

Sims CJ
Paarman T
Makan J
Bird A
Look Back

- Look Back is the tracing and testing of blood donors and recipients in cases where a blood product is assessed as potentially contaminated with a blood borne infection.

- Look Back Processes
  - Recipient Initiated Look Back
  - Donor Initiated Look Back
Look Back Processes

- **Recipient Initiated Look Back**
  - When a patient has an infection which may be related to transfusion, the donors are tested for the relevant transfusion transmitted infection (TTI)

- **Donor Initiated Look Back**
  - The tracing of blood recipients who have received blood from a previously negative, screened donor who has subsequently tested positive for an infectious disease
Process: Recipient Initiated Look Back

Case of TTI reported to service by treating doctor

Identify transfused blood products from records

Products in Inventory
- Return for discard or testing

Identify donors
- Counsel & test donors for TTI

Flag donor on system
- Advise donor of results

Report results to recipient’s doctor
Process: Recipient Initiated Look Back

• Donor untraceable - flag for follow up
• **Negative Results:**
  - Advise donor of results
• **Positive Results:**
  - Counsel donor
  - Assess need to follow up previous donations

• Record outcome of donor tracing and testing
• Report results of look back

www.wpblood.org.za
Process: Donor Initiated Look Back

Repeat donor confirmed positive for HIV/HBV or HCV

Identify all blood products from previous negative donations

Products in inventory
Return for discard or testing

Products transfused
Identify recipients
Send information to doctor/hospital

Plasma product
Virally inactivated - no further action

Doctor to test and counsel recipient
Process: Donor Initiated Look Back

- Record recipient tracing and testing
- Recipient deceased/untraceable decide on need to follow up previous donations

**Negative Results:**
- No further follow up

**Positive Results:**
- Assess need to investigate donation prior to this look back donation
  - Viral sequencing
- Close case
## Look Back Cases: Donor Initiated

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Virus</th>
<th>Cases</th>
<th>Recipients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIV</td>
<td>536</td>
<td>578</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HBV</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCV</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Source: WP Blood Transfusion Service](http://www.wpblood.org.za)
Donor Initiated Look Back: Results of Recipient Follow Up

- Untraceable: 25% (210)
- Tested: 30% (171)
- Deceased: 7% (45)
- In Progress: 38% (264)

WP Blood Transfusion Service
www.wpblood.org.za
Confirmed TTI Cases Since 1985

10 Million Blood Products Transfused since 1985

HIV 6
HBV 4
HCV 3
Malaria 2
CMV 1
Challenges Faced

- Audit trail requires organised documentation and systems
- Time consuming
- Unable to trace the recipients in 38% of cases
- Cases closed after 24 months
Challenges Faced

• Response from doctors:
  - Slow to respond - particularly with Hepatitis B
  - Do not feel it is their responsibility
  - Often inadequate counselling of the recipient can create mixed messages
  - No feedback on test results
Closing Remarks

- Educate physicians about their role and the importance of follow up

- Vital part of Haemovigilance

- Changing of policies

- Look back assists in identifying early infection for clinical management and prevention of secondary spread
Thank you