



Facts About TRALI Reduction
Northern California Community Blood Bank
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Why do you need me now?

There is new research available about a transfusion reaction called TRALI - Transfusion Related Acute Lung Injury that may be caused by transfused plasma and platelet products.

What causes TRALI?

The Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) Antibody is thought to be the most likely cause. This antibody is found in many people who have been pregnant or had transfusions.

It is not an illness.

Why Women?

The HLA Antibody, which has been associated with TRALI is more prevalent in women. (15-20% in female donors, <1% in male donors).

Isn't there a test?

There is no feasible test currently available, though we hope that in the next few years a test will become viable to screen for the HLA antibody and make 80-85% of our female donors eligible again.

How much plasma comes from female donors?

41% of our plasma donors are women, but OVER 61% of our plasma comes from these incredibly generous donors.

How many platelets come from female donors?

About 45% of our platelet donors are women and approximately 30% of our platelet products are donated by them.

Isn't excluding all women a drastic step to take?

The NCCBB has always put the safety of our donors and patients first. We, and blood centers around the country, feel that, at this time, this is the most pro-active, responsible action to take to protect the safety of our patients and our blood supply.

What can I do?

Understand that this decision was made in the interest of the safest blood supply possible, this is not personal, this is not an illness that you have and we hope to have you return as a donor as soon as possible.

You can also spread the word to friends and family, fathers, brothers and husbands.

Where can I get more information?

If you have questions or would like to schedule a donation please call us at 443-8004. Additional resources and links are available on our web-site at www.nccbb.org/trali.htm.