

Transfusion practices in the pediatric and neonatology departments of Soavinandriana hospital center

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*Blood transfusion is an important part of day-to-day clinical practice. The main objective of this work is to describe transfusion practices in the Pediatrics and Neonatology Department of the Hospital Center of Soavinandriana. **Methods:** A prospective observational study of 6 months has been conducted. All requests to Department of Pediatrics and Neonatology for blood for transfusion for children aged less than 14 years were identified prospectively. The variables studied were: patients' characteristics (age, gender) reason for hospitalization, paraclinical examinations (blood count and formula before transfusion, ABO and Rhesus grouping), the presented pathology, the indicated transfusion: nature, incidents during and after transfusion and the outcome of the pathology (healing, death). **Results:** The incidence was 6.54%, 33 patients had a blood transfusion. The sex ratio was 1.35. The average age is 46.06 months. Skin pallor was the main reason for hospitalization, which represented 18.18% of the cases. The average hemoglobin level was 8.08 g/dl. The O and rhesus positive blood group was the predominant in this work. The blood products which were used were: red blood cell (n=20, 54.05%), whole blood (n=15, 40.54%), fresh frozen plasma (n=1, 2.70%), platelets concentrate (n=1, 2.70%). **Conclusion:** The packed red blood cell was used the most and the hospital blood bank did not have enough labile blood products. It is therefore essential to improve the structures for the preparation of blood and its derivatives, in order to make all varieties of labile blood products accessible.*

Keywords: Blood transfusion, Practices, Antananarivo

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Introduction

Blood transfusion is a complementary therapy, which consists of compensating for the loss or insufficiency of blood or one of its components [1]. *It is* an important part of day-to-day clinical practice. In pediatrics, blood transfusion is based on a set of procedures which guarantee blood products that are adapted to the child's needs, without harming his development or his blood-immunological status.

In France, six percent of transfused labile blood products are delivered for pediatrics [2]. The transfusion rate was 85.7% in Cameroon and 70% in Kenya [3]. In 2013, a study carried out at the University Hospital Center of Fianarantsoa objectified that 10.4% of the transfused patients were from 0 to 10 years old [4]. In the Pediatrics department of Joseph Raseta Befelatanana Hospital, eighty-two percent of sickle cell patients hospitalized during the period studied had received a blood transfusion [5].

Very few qualitative and quantitative data on transfusion needs are available or even non-existent in the Pediatrics and Neonatology Department of the Hospital Center of Soavinandriana (CENHOSOA).

This observational study was performed to describe transfusion practices in the aforementioned departments. The knowledge of these data would make it possible to estimate the annual labile blood product needs of the CENHOSOA Pediatrics department, in order to contribute to the management of the hospital's blood bank stocks.

Methods

The study was conducted at the Department of Pediatrics and Neonatology of the Hospital Center of Soavinandriana (CENHOSOA) located in Antananarivo, the capital of Madagascar. The department has a pediatric resuscitation unit, a neonatal resuscitation unit, a conventional hospitalization unit, having 54 beds in total. Children having undergone a surgical intervention carried out by the pediatric surgery and neurosurgery team are also taken care over there. CENHOSOA has a blood bank service inside the compound, which has been functional since ten years. A prospective observational study design, from April 1st, 2016 until October 31st, 2016 has been conducted.

All requests to Department of Pediatrics and Neonatology for blood for transfusion for children aged less than 14 years. It was an exhaustive sampling. We excluded patients who had a blood transfusion during surgery in the operating room.

The variables studied were: patients' characteristics (age, gender) reason for hospitalization, paraclinical examinations (blood count and formula before transfusion, ABO and Rhesus grouping), the presented pathology, the indicated transfusion: nature, incidents during and after transfusion and the outcome of the pathology (healing, death). Data extraction was undertaken by the clinicians. The data were entered onto EXCEL and exported to statistical software (EPI INFO 7) for analysis. Frequencies and percentages were calculated to describe findings

Permission to collect the data was also obtained from parents. The data were processed anonymously.

Results

There were 504 pediatric admissions to the service and 33 pediatric blood transfusion requests, an incidence of 6.54%. The sex ratio was 1.35. The average age is 46.06 months, i.e. 3 years and 9.96 months old, with extremes of D0 and 13 years old. (Table I).

Table-I: Age distribution

Age (months)	Number (n=33)	Proportion (%)
< 1	9	27,27
1 -6	3	9,09
6 - 12	8	24,24
12 - 24	2	6,06
24- 60	2	6,06
60- 120	3	9,09
120- 180	6	18,18

Table II shows the reasons for admission.

In the history, we found 4 sickle cell anemia, 6 prematurity, and 3 intrauterine growth restriction (IUGR). A patient had a previous transfusion and 2 newborns were born in a background of hemorrhagic placenta previa. Infectious and hematological pathologies were the most encountered in these transfused patients. (Table III).

A hemogram was prescribed for all 33 patients in our series, 1 of whom did not obtain his result (Table IV). The average Hb was 8.08 g/dl with extreme values of 2.4g/dl and 16g/dl.

Table-II: Reasons for admission.

Reasons for admission	Number (n=33)	Proportion (%)
Fever	5	15,15
Skin pallor	6	18,18
Shortness of breath	4	12,12
Hemorrhagic syndrome	4	12,12
Pain syndrome	3	9,09
Prematurity	2	6,06
Others		
Soft tissue swelling	2	6,06
Vomiting	1	3,03
Trauma	1	3,03
Edematous syndrome	1	3,03
Epigastralgia	1	3,03
Cranial malformation	2	6,06
Refusal to feed	1	3,03

Table III: Pathology.

Pathology	Number (n=33)	Proportion (%)
Infectious pathology	15	45,45
Hematologic pathology	12	36,36
Surgery pathology	4	12,12
Others		
Road accident	1	3,03
Rheumatic heart	1	3,03

Table IV: Blood count.

	Number	Proportion (%)
Hemoglobin level		
New born		
Hb < 10g/dl	1	11,11
Hb > 10g/dl	8	88,89
Infants and children		
Hb < 7g/dl	9	39,13
7 ≤ Hb < 10g/dl	10	43,47
Hb ≥ 10g/dl	4	17,40
Platelets		
<150 000/mm ³	15	46,88
>150 000/mm ³	17	53,12
Mean Corpuscular Volum (MCV)		
< 70 fl	14	43, 53
> 100 fl	5	15, 62
70 fl- 100fl	15	42,85
Mean Corpuscular Hemoglobin Concentration (MCHC)		
< 32 %	12	34,38
> 32 %	20	65,62

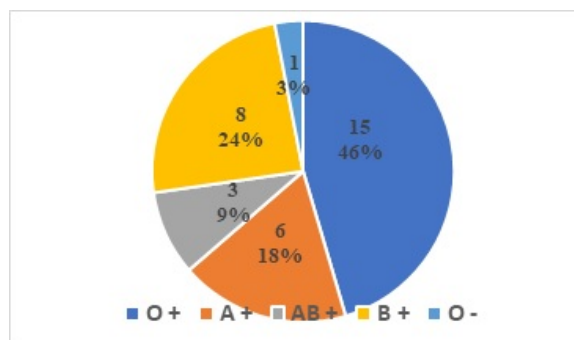


Figure-1: Distribution by blood type

Figure 1 describes the distribution of patients by blood group.

The blood products which were used were: red blood cell (n=20, 54.05%), whole blood (n=15, 40.54%), fresh frozen plasma (n=1, 2.70%), platelets concentrate (n=1, 2.70%). A patient could not receive his transfusion due to the lack of stock in the blood bank while a triple transfusion was carried out for a patient, made of packed red blood cells, whole blood, and fresh frozen plasma.

The National Center for Blood Transfusion of the Joseph Andrianavalona University Hospital Center had delivered the vast majority of the used blood bags. No incident was reported during the blood transfusion. Seven deaths were encountered during our study, ie a mortality rate of 21.21%, one of which had no transfusion due to the unavailability of a blood bag.

Discussion

Transfusion occupies a great considerable place in pediatric environment; it is an act that should not be neglected for young children. In our study, 33 patients received a blood transfusion, i.e. an incidence of 6.54%. Rakotoaritiana found a proportion of 10.4% of children who are less than 10 years old, who received a blood transfusion in his work carried out at University Hospital Center of Fianarantsoa, Madagascar [4]. A study conducted at the "Coast Provincial General Hospital » in Kenya showed a hospital incidence of 15.88%, during two years study period [6]. In Zimbabwe, over a 12-month period, in the four major national hospitals, a transfusion rate of 13.4% for those who are less than 15 years old was objectified [7].

The average age in our study was 46.06 months old, i.e. 3 years and 9.96 months old with an extremity from D0 to 13 years old;

While in the county hospital in Kenya, on the same study, this average was 33.6 months or 2 years and 9.6 months old [8]. In general, patients who are less than 2 years old were at risk groups and the most numerous to be transfused in our study (66.664%). This was confirmed by CheloDwith a value of 55.30% in children under two years old [9]. But V. Dan found a more advanced age. According to his research, 84% of the transfused children in the department were under 3 years old with a peak between birth and 12 months old [10]. Several literatures noted that the age below 5 years old was the most transfused, like Okoko. A.R. and al in Brazzaville [11]. Regarding the age groups, the newborns were those who needed transfusion the most, with a percentage of 27.7%. This result is explained by the fact that these patients who are admitted to the neonatology units constitute a group of individuals particularly exposed to the risk of transfusion, because of their physiological and pathological characteristics [12]. In the study of AsmaAdny about 169 neonatal anemia cases, collected in the neonatology department of the CHU Mohamed VI of Marrakech during a period of 2 years, 20 cases of newborns were transfused, i.e. a percentage of 11.83% [1].

Skin pallor was the main reason for admission, which represented 18.18% of the cases in our study, followed by fever in 15.15% of cases (n=5), hemorrhagic syndrome (12.12%) and shortness of breath (12.12%). According to a study in Cameroon in two pediatric departments in Yaoundé in 2016, the first reason for consultation among children was the pale color of the teguments, observed in 161 patients (40.86%), followed by fever in 127 patients (32.20%) and intense asthenia in 90 patients (22.84%) [9]. There are a variety of reasons according to the studies, through the analysis, but skin-mucous pallor and fever are the main reasons for admission, followed by shortness of breath. Moreover, fever, diarrhea and acute respiratory infections were the most significant health problems in children [13]. A study carried out in Yaoundé by Djeutchouang made it possible to report a high frequency (74.3%) of fever in anemic patients [14]. According to KedyKoumDand al, skin and mucous pallor, asthenia, tachycardia and dyspnea were the main signs found in anemic patients [15].

The average hemoglobin level was 8.08 g/dl with extreme values of 2.4g/dl and 16g/dl. This result is close to what has been published in Cameroon with an average hemoglobin level of 8.6 ± 1.7 g/d [15].

In the pediatric resuscitation department in Montreal, Gauvin found a pre-transfusion hemoglobin rate of 8,lg/dl with extreme values of 3.8 and 17, lg / dl [16]. On the other hand, the average hemoglobin level found in our study was a little bit high compared to that which Pascal Korgo found in Burkina Faso, a rate of 4.08 g/dl [1].The indication for a blood transfusion takes into account the values of the erythrocyte constants and above all the clinical tolerance.

The O and rhesus positive blood group was the predominant in this work. In a study carried out by Rakotosalamain 2005 at the Emergency and Intensive Care Unit CHU Mahajanga Androva, the "O" groups occupy the first place among the transfused patients, 17out of 34 patients in total, one of whom represents a Rhesus negative [17]. According to Rahanitrarisoa on the evaluation of transfusion practice in the surgical intensive care unit at CHU Ampefiloha, people in the O+ group are the most important among transfused patients in this department, i.e. 40.56%, followed by B+ group who represent 31,13% and A+, AB+ and finally O- [18]. The predominance of the O+ blood group was also found in Mahajanga and Fianarantsoa with a proportion of 45% and 41.8% respectively. These results seem to suppose that the O+ blood group constitutes the predominant group in Madagascar. But as the blood group profile of malagasy is not yet well established and clarified, we only stayed with this observation.

Blood cell transfusion was by far the most widely prescribed in 54.05% of the transfusion cases. According to a study carried out at the CHU Brazzaville on pediatric transfusion activity, the most used blood product is the globular concentrate (98.3%), then the whole blood (1.4%), and finally the fresh frozen plasma (0,3%) [9]. Unlike the result of David Chelo, which shows that whole blood was the most transfused in 338 children (84.5%) while 62 (15.5%) received red blood cells [11].

Fifteen patients received a whole blood transfusion, 42.86% of the cases. For other authors, the whole blood was the main blood product delivered: 84.50% for Libite P[19]. Garbaand Ouethy respectively observed that 89.31% and 100% of the label blood products used were whole blood [20,21]. The absence or scarcity of the production of other blood product types in these developing countries can be due to the lackof material or the absence of appropriate technical capacity for the preparation and treatment of the donors' blood.

Mr. Chobli wrote that Africa, in particular, benefits little (and sometimes not even at all) from the technological and organizational progress in blood transfusion [22]. As a result, many children received whole blood instead of the prescribed and indicated blood cell.

The National Center for Blood Transfusion of the Joseph Andrianavalona University Hospital Center had delivered the vast majority of the blood bags which are used (91.90%). During this study, we could see that our blood bank did not have a qualification and transformation of the blood products. We only havepacked red blood cell and whole blood in our blood bank. The production of blood derivatives at CENHOSOA remains embryonic. Under-equipment and lack of reagents are the main problems for the production and availability of blood products. This handicap of by-products deprives the prescriber of the choice of the product adapted to transfusion pathology.

Our study was limited to patients admitted to the CENHOSOA Pediatrics and Neonatology Department, therefore cannot represent all pediatric patients in the country. However, our results may serve as a reference for future studies and may provide an estimate of the use of labile blood products in the pediatric and neonatal department of CENHOSOA.

Conclusion

This study allowed us to better visualize the use of blood transfusion within the pediatric department of the Hospital Center of Soavinandriana. An incidence of 6.54% has been objectified. The O rhesus positive blood group was predominant. The packed red blood cell was used the most and the hospital blood bank did not have enough labile blood products. It is therefore essential to improve the structures for the preparation of blood and its derivatives, in order to make all varieties of labile blood products accessible.

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