

Second Anatolian Blood Days

Antalya, Turkey. November 25th – 27th, 2013

Sponsored by the Turkish Blood Foundation

Purpose and Activities of the Meeting

The purpose of the meeting was to develop a consensus on the training of nurses in clinical transfusion. Nurses have a key position in ensuring the safety of blood transfusion in the hospital setting. To discuss this important subject, the Turkish Blood Foundation convened an international meeting as the subject of the Second Anatolian Blood Days, November 25 -27 2013.

The participants in the meeting took into consideration the official Recommendation **Rec (2004)18 of the Council of Europe on teaching transfusion medicine to nurses**, which includes the following statements.

Recent reports on risk assessment in blood transfusion demonstrate that more than 30% of serious adverse reactions and untoward events associated with blood transfusion are due to human errors and system errors in the blood transfusion chain (vein-to-vein). These can be fatal or cause major or minor morbidity to the transfused patient

Explanatory Memorandum Item 2

Most errors occur in blood sampling from the patient, in prescriptions of blood components, in the laboratory of the blood establishment or blood services, during collection of donor blood and in the ward where blood components are administered

Explanatory Memorandum Item 3

Haemovigilance systems stress that complications of blood transfusion can be avoided or reduced by the application of safety measures before, during, and after transfusion

Explanatory Memorandum Item 4

Blood transfusion safety depends largely on the nursing staff (while doctors are responsible for prescribing) involved in the transfusion of patients in hospitals or at home.

Explanatory Memorandum Item 5

Reports from Europe, the USA and elsewhere on evidence-based practice in the field of blood transfusion, stress that inadequate training of nurses is a key determinant of poor transfusion-related knowledge and practice of transfusion safety measures

Explanatory Memorandum Item 6

Therefore there is a need to determine common basic principles for pre- and postgraduate education of nurses in the clinical setting, and to define a common basis for good transfusion practice

Explanatory Memorandum Item 9

During the meeting 30 transfusion professionals representing 17 countries gave presentations on their own services. They presented evidence of inadequate training of nursing personnel in clinical transfusion that confirmed the need for work on this subject.

After a plenary discussion the participants formed three working groups dealing with

- 1) the core training common to all of nurses during their initial education (pregraduate training),
- 2) the training required for all in-service nurses who have any responsibility in the clinical transfusion process, and
- 3) the characteristics and role of the nurse dedicated to or specialized in clinical transfusion.

Based on the reports presented by each working group a draft consensus statement was prepared and discussed. The final statement agreed by the participants is shown below.

Consensus Statement

1 The curriculum for education and training of nurses in the topic of clinical transfusion

- Should be clearly defined and the method of delivery should be practically achievable.
- The latter requirement is especially important for in service training
- The core curriculum for nurses in training and for in-service nurses should be similar
- In service training should give special emphasis to practical procedures that affect patient safety.
- The pregraduate core curriculum should preferably be covered as a single block rather than distributed among different parts of the course.

2 The core curriculum should cover the following topics

- Responsibilities of the nurse in clinical transfusion.
- Knowledge of regulations and guidelines on blood transfusion
- Compatibility of the blood component with the patient: ABO types, haemolytic transfusion reactions and prevention. Prevention of Rh immunization
- Description of the main blood components, main indications, storage handling and administration
- Complications of blood transfusion
- Description of the clinical transfusion process
 - Informed consent
 - Request form, sampling and patient identification
 - Receipt and visual inspection of the component unit
 - Pretransfusion identity checks to ensure that the blood component is the one intended for the patient
 - Baseline observation of vital signs
 - Administration of the blood component
 - Monitoring vital signs
 - Recognition of signs of acute transfusion reactions and initial management
 - Finalization of transfusion (completion of transfusion record, discard of blood pack and giving set).
 - Ensuring traceability of each unit transfused by completing the required documentation

3 With respect to the dedicated nurses in clinical transfusion, it was agreed that role requires a person with good clinical experience and skills, preferably including experience in a clinical specialty in which transfusion is used.

The role involves coordination, communication and the promotion of change and quality improvement, so a successful appointee will have a good aptitude for management. Specific tasks of the dedicated nurse would include

- Leading the implementation of training in clinical transfusion
 - Co coordinating haemovigilance reporting
 - Promoting best clinical transfusion practice
 - Co coordinating a programme of transfusion audits
 - Providing progress reports to the Hospital Transfusion Committee (HTC)
 - Participating as a full member of the HTC
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