

TACO MATTERS!

Transfusion-associated circulatory overload (TACO) is the most commonly reported cause of transfusion-related mortality and major morbidity¹

377 reported cases - Deaths = 33, Major morbidity = 108 (2015-2018)¹

PERFORM a pre-transfusion risk assessment for TACO

TACO Checklist **Red cell transfusion for non-bleeding patients**



- Does the patient have a diagnosis of 'heart failure', congestive cardiac failure, severe aortic stenosis, or moderate to severe left ventricular dysfunction?
- Is the patient on a regular diuretic?
- Does the patient have severe anaemia?



- Is the patient known to have pulmonary oedema?
- Does the patient have respiratory symptoms of undiagnosed cause?



- Is the fluid balance clinically significantly positive?
- Is the patient on concomitant fluids (or has been in the past 24 hours)?
- Is there any peripheral oedema?
- Does the patient have hypoalbuminaemia?
- Does the patient have significant renal impairment?

If 'YES' to any of these questions:



- 1 • Review the need for transfusion (do the benefits outweigh the risks?)
- 2 • Can the transfusion be safely deferred until the issue can be investigated, treated or resolved?
- 3 • Consider body weight dosing for red cells (especially if low body weight)
• Transfuse one unit (red cells) and review symptoms of anaemia
• Measure the fluid balance
• Consider giving a prophylactic diuretic
• Monitor the vital signs closely, including oxygen saturation

Due to the differences in adult and neonatal physiology, babies may have a different risk for TACO. Calculate the dose by weight and observe the notes above.

Developing respiratory distress² during or up to 24 hours after transfusion may be a sign of TACO

STOP or slow the transfusion

PROMPT clinical assessment is required

PERFORM a chest x-ray

CONSIDER a trial of diuretics

CONTACT intensive care early if the patient does not respond to initial measures

ALL cases of suspected TACO must be reported to Serious Hazards of Transfusion (SHOT) via your local Hospital Transfusion Team

1. www.shotuk.org

2. <http://hospital.blood.co.uk/audits/national-comparative-audit/medical-audits/>