

Safe supplies: Data in context

Joint working between NHS Blood and Transplant and Public Health England

Bacterial Screening of Platelets and Bacterial TTIs, UK 2019

Scotland

- 15 955 platelets screened
 - 41% Apheresis, 2 Confirmed Positive (0.03%)
 - 59% Pooled, 7 Confirmed Positive (0.07%)

Northern Ireland

- 5 794 platelets screened
 - 68% Apheresis, 0 Confirmed Positive (0%)
 - 32% Pooled, 0 Confirmed Positive (0%)

Wales

- 12 574 platelets screened
 - 43% Apheresis, 2 Confirmed Positive (0.04%)
 - 57% Pooled, 3 Confirmed Positive (0.04%)

England

- 267 337 platelets screened
 - 50% Apheresis, 35 Confirmed Positive (0.03%)
 - 50% Pooled, 129 Confirmed Positive (0.1%)

Species identified from confirmed positive apheresis platelets (England):

- Mouth/throat flora - 10 (29%)
- Gut flora - 2 (6%)
- Skin flora - 22 (63%)
- Non-recoverable / other - 1 (3%)

Species identified from confirmed positive pooled platelets (England):

- Mouth/throat flora - 6 (5%)
- Gut flora - 3 (2%)
- Skin flora - 118 (91%)
- Non-recoverable / other - 2 (2%)

- Bacteria are more frequently isolated from pooled donations since there are more donors contributing to one platelet pack
- Most bacteria isolated are skin flora which generally are less harmful to recipients
- When potentially harmful bacteria are isolated in a donation (such as some gut flora), a post-donation discussion is had and the donor is referred to specialists where necessary

Transfusion transmitted infections (TTI)

- 139 suspected bacterial TTI investigated

- 0 Confirmed or probable TTI's identified
- Bacterial screening of all platelets began in 2011.
- Since then there has been 1 confirmed bacterial TTI; *Staphylococcus aureus* in 2015.

For more details see the annual SHOT report: www.shotuk.org

Data source: Data supplied to the NHSBT/PHE Epidemiology Unit by NHSBT, WBS, NIBTS & SNBTS