Safe supplies 2020: Progress in a pandemic
Joint working between NHS Blood and Transplant and UK Health Security Agency

Bacterial screening and bacterial transfusion transmitted infections (TTI), UK 2020

There are very low rates of confirmed positive cases

**Northern Ireland**
- 5,188 components screened
  - Apheresis 67.6%
  - Confirmed +ve = 0 (0%)
  - Pooled 32.4%
  - Confirmed +ve = 0 (0%)

**Scotland**
- 15,320 components screened
  - Apheresis 41%
  - Confirmed +ve = 3 (0.05%)
  - Pooled 59.3%
  - Confirmed +ve = 9 (0.1%)

**Wales**
- 12,404 components screened
  - Apheresis 48%
  - Confirmed +ve = 3 (0.05%)
  - Pooled 52%
  - Confirmed +ve = 1 (0.02%)

**England**
- 246,454 components screened
  - Apheresis 53.5%
  - Confirmed +ve = 31 (0.02%)
  - Pooled 46.5%
  - Confirmed +ve = 120 (0.1%)

Most bacteria are skin flora, which are generally less harmful to recipients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species identified from confirmed positive apheresis platelets</th>
<th>Species identified from confirmed positive pooled platelets</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mouth/throat flora 2 (6%)</td>
<td>Mouth/throat flora 3 (2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gut flora 6 (19%)</td>
<td>Gut flora 2 (2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin flora 22 (71%)</td>
<td>Skin flora 113 (93%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-recoverable/other 1 (3%)</td>
<td>Non-recoverable/other 3 (2%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If any potentially harmful bacteria are isolated (such as some gut flora) a post- donation discussion is had with the donor, who may then be referred to a specialist, if necessary.

There were no bacterial TTIs identified in the last 5 years

Since bacterial screening of platelets began in 2011, there has been 1 confirmed TTI in 2015 (*Staphylococcus aureus*)

135 suspected bacterial TTIs were investigated in 2020

For more details, see the Serious Hazards of Transfusion (SHOT) report on the SHOT website.

Sources: Data supplied to the NHSBT UKHSA Epidemiology Unit by NHSBT, WBS, NIBTS & SNBTS