

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT BLOOD DONATION AND TRANSFUSION

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1. *Blood cannot be manufactured, and there is no substitute for it.*
2. *Blood supplies need to be replenished constantly, as blood products have a short shelf life.*
3. *Around 108 million blood donations are collected globally every year.*
4. **Blood Donation versus Income of Country**

The average blood donation rate is 36.8 donations per 1000 people in high-income countries, 11.7 donations per 1000 people in middle-income countries and 3.9 donations per 1000 in low-income countries.

Thus, the average blood donation rate is more than 9 times greater in high-income countries than in low-income countries.

5. **Transfusions versus Income of Country**

In high-income countries, the most frequently transfused patient group is over 65 years of age, accounting for up to 76% of all transfusions. The transfusion is commonly used for supportive care in cardiovascular surgery, transplant surgery, massive trauma, and therapy for solid and haematological malignancies.

In low- and middle-income countries it is used more often for management of pregnancy-related complications, childhood -malaria complicated by severe anaemia, and trauma-related injuries.

6. **Donated blood should always be screened**

All donated blood should always be screened for HIV, hepatitis B, hepatitis C and syphilis prior to transfusion.

Yet, 25 countries are not able to screen all donated blood for one or more of these infections.

Testing is not reliable in many countries because of irregular supply of test kits, staff shortages, poor quality test kits, or lack of basic quality in laboratories.

7. **A single unit of blood can benefit several patients**

Separating blood into its various components allows a single unit of blood to benefit several patients and provides a patient only the blood component which is needed.

About 95% of the blood collected in high-income countries, 80% in middle-income countries and 45% in low-income countries is separated into blood components.

8. Unnecessary transfusions expose patients to needless risk

Often transfusions are prescribed when simple and safe alternative treatments might be equally effective. As a result such a transfusion may not be necessary.

An unnecessary transfusion exposes patients to the risk of infections such as HIV and hepatitis and adverse transfusion reactions.