



An audit of compliance with BSH haemoglobinopathy patients' transfusion requirements and antibody prevalence in a UK tertiary centre hospital blood bank

S. MAKKI¹, V. GARCIA¹, R. AUTURALLY¹, R. JOLLEY¹, K. PHILPOTT¹, DR T FOUKANELI¹, DR E DICKENS¹, DR M. BESSER¹
¹ Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Trust



INTRODUCTION

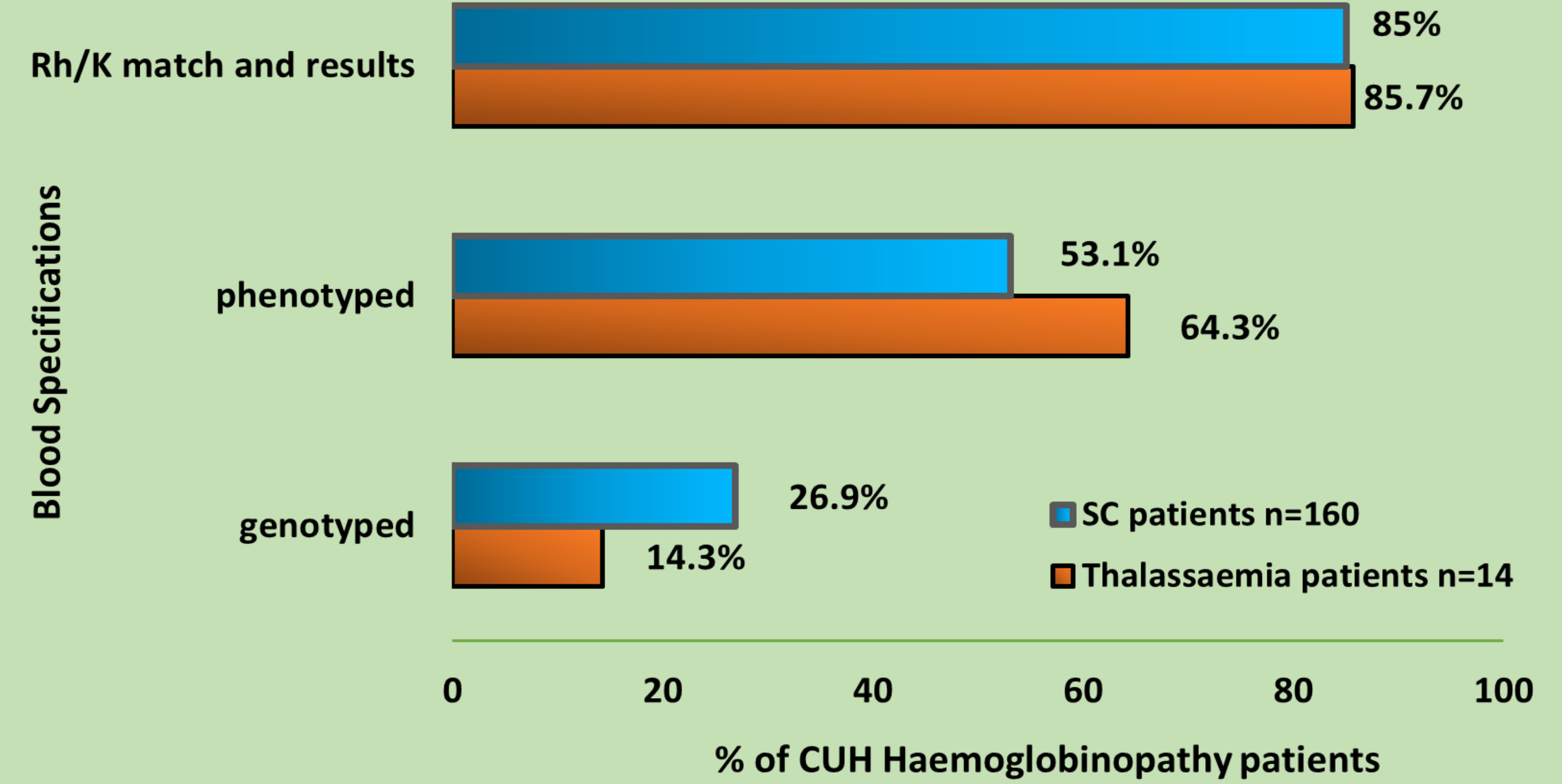
Patients, with Sickle cell disease (SCD) and Thalassaemia (T), should receive Rh/K matched blood and be extended antigen typed to reduce the risk of alloimmunisation.

A retrospective audit checked request orders and patient history in the laboratory information system (LIMS) of Cambridge University Hospital (CUH).

RESULTS

Figure 1: Haemoglobinopathy Blood Specifications recorded on CUH LIMS

Rh variants were detected in SCD patients, all had extended typing, and none in the thalassaemia patients and all were reported on LIMS.
 There were 3 autoantibodies in SCD patients and 1 autoantibody in T patients.

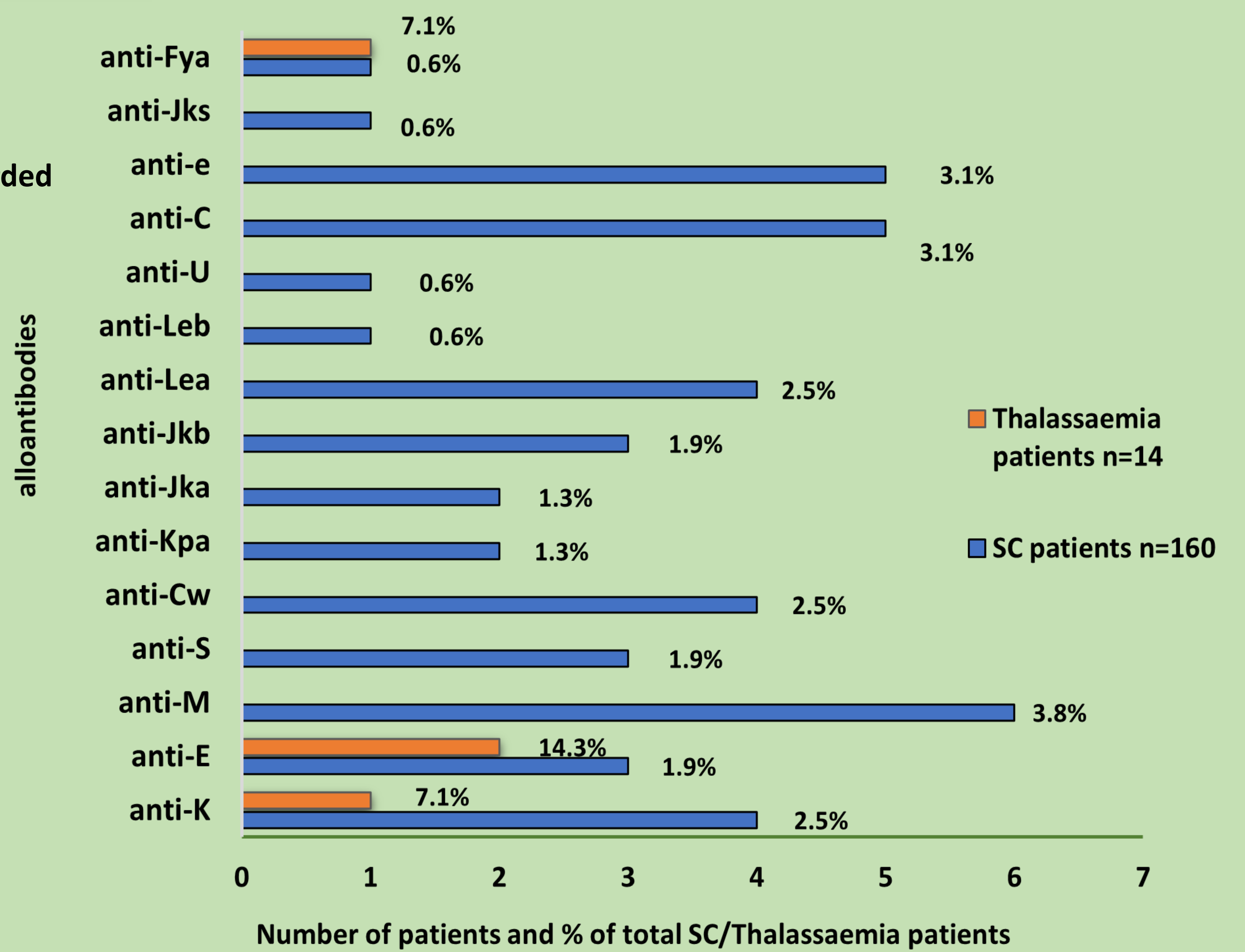


AIM

The objective was to review CUH Blood Transfusion laboratory's LIMS record for each Haemoglobinopathy patient. The standards used for this audit were taken from Guideline recommendations made in the British Society for Haematology (BSH) for Haemoglobinopathy patients. The Audit focused on Antigen typing as opposed to the provision of HbS negative units or the age of blood..

Figure 2: Alloantibodies recorded in CUH Haemoglobinopathy patients on LIMS

Alloimmunisation prevalence was 13.8% amongst SCD patients and 21.4% amongst thalassaemic patients.
 There were a total of 45 antibodies (with 16 different antibody specificities) and all were typed for Rh/K as well as extended antigen typing.



METHOD

There were 174 (SCD=160, T=14) haemoglobinopathy patients registered at our hospital. Although genotyping results from the International Blood Group Referencing Laboratory (IBGRL) are accessible on NHSBT SpICE, for the purpose of this audit, data was collected using the systems used exclusively by CUH laboratory staff to ensure that the necessary instructions were present to alert the BMS to the patients' blood specifications.

CONCLUSIONS

- ❖ Most significant among the antibodies is the detection of 3.1% anti-e, Anti-C, AND Anti-E antibodies, which could be indicative of possible transfusion errors in the past and require further investigation.
- ❖ Reaudit and ensure that the manual entry of necessary patient information within a reasonable time frame.
- ❖ Robust processes are required to ensure the communication of the haemoglobinopathy diagnosis to blood bank in all cases.
- ❖ Although genotyping results can be accessed through NHSBT SpICE, it would be a safer, leaner way of working to streamline the information on to LIMS.

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 CUH Blood Transfusion Laboratory
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CONTACT INFORMATION

suzannemakki@nhs.net.