



What Do They Know and What Should We Tell Them- Knowledge, Attitude and Education on Blood Transfusion Therapy Among Antenatal Mothers

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INTRODUCTION

Obstetric hemorrhage is one of the common indications for blood transfusion. It is recommended to obtain consent before blood transfusion but it may not be practical and possible in critical emergencies. Most of the antenatal management guidelines have not recommended the routine education on blood transfusion to the patients.

AIM

Aim was to analyze the knowledge and attitudes regarding blood transfusion among antenatal mothers and the need of routine education regarding blood transfusion among the antenatal population.

METHOD

A descriptive study was conducted among transfusion naive 320 antenatal women in their 3rd trimester attending antenatal clinic at De Soysa Maternity Hospital, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Data was collected with a self-administered questionnaire and analyzed with SPSS software and Microsoft excel.

RESULTS

Study population included 37.5% (120) primi and 62.5% (200) of multi gravida. Religion-wise, 49.7% (159), 28.1% (90), 16% (51), 9.3% (30) of them were Buddhists, Hindus, Christians and Muslims respectively. None of them were Jehovah's witnesses. None of the mothers were counseled about blood transfusion during their antenatal visits by the health care workers. Out of the total population, 31.9% (102) were aware of at least one indication for the blood transfusion. 20.3% (65) and 14.7% (47) of mothers knew bleeding and anaemia were indications of transfusion respectively. Only 45.3% (145) of mothers knew at least one undesired effect of blood transfusion. Transfusion transmitted infections and allergic reactions were the complications known by 31.2% (100) and 21.6% (69) of mothers respectively. Among study population 94% (301) agreed that they would agree for blood transfusion irrespective of the indication if it was suggested by health care staff whereas 6% (19) participants mentioned they would agree for blood transfusion only in an acute life threatening situation. None of them mentioned that they would refuse the transfusion even during a life threatening situation. Among the mothers who'd agree only in a life-threatening situation, 2.8% (9) of them decided so since they considered blood transfusion to be dangerous, whereas 2.5% (8) due to fear of needles and 0.6 % (2) mothers were scared of the sight of blood. Religious reasons were not mentioned by any of them as a restricting factor for receiving blood transfusion. Among study population 97.1% (311) of the mothers suggested that all pregnant mothers should be routinely be counseled about blood transfusion in the antenatal care.

CONCLUSIONS

Although the knowledge on blood transfusion was inadequate, most of the mothers accepted blood transfusion as an important clinical therapy. Majority of the study population favored the inclusion of education and counselling on blood transfusion during the antenatal period. It is recommendable to educate the mothers at antenatal clinics prior to their admission to wards for child birth.

REFERENCES

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