PUBLIC HEALTH WEBINAR SERIES ON BLOOD DISORDERS

BRINGING SCIENCE INTO PRACTICE

The Division of Blood Disorders is proud to offer this webinar series, providing evidence-based information on new research, emerging issues of interest in blood disorders, as well as innovative approaches to collaboration.

2019 Scientific Update: **Transfusion Guidelines for Thalassemia**

AUGUST 13, 2019 • 2:00–3:00PM ET

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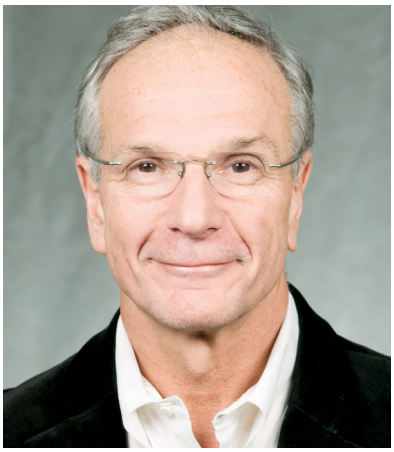

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The thalassemias are inherited anemias caused by mutations that reduce the synthesis of the globin chains of hemoglobin molecule. Beta thalassemia major is associated with the development of life-threatening anemia during the first or second year of life. Severe fetal anemia in alpha thalassemia major (or Bart's hydrops fetalis) is fatal during the intrauterine period. Less severe forms of alpha and beta thalassemias are heterogeneous disorders with a varying degree of anemia.

The introduction of effective red blood cell (RBC) transfusions 50 years ago was a critical step in transforming thalassemia from a severe, fatal anemia into a chronic condition. With safe transfusion practices and optimal treatment of iron overload, many children with thalassemia have normal growth and development and a life expectancy extending into the seventh decade and beyond. However, there is a wide variability in transfusion practices between treatment centers, and complications from transfusions are now the major cause of morbidity and mortality.

The heterogeneity of thalassemia syndromes, combined with a lack of standardized guidelines, presents a formidable challenge to the delivery of effective, evidence-based health care.

In this webinar, we will review the range of complications associated with RBC transfusions in thalassemia, as well as describe the guidelines for transfusion therapy in beta thalassemia major, the most common form of transfusion-dependent thalassemia. The webinar will also address transfusions in alpha thalassemia major, and recommendations for non-transfusion-dependent thalassemia.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Identify two complications of blood transfusions in thalassemia.
2. Describe the guidelines for initiating and monitoring blood transfusions in patients with beta thalassemia major.
3. Describe the approach to transfusions in patients with alpha thalassemia major and non-transfusion-dependent thalassemia.

This webinar is free and open to public health professionals, clinicians, and researchers who desire more information about thalassemia. Advance registration is required, and the number of attendees is limited.

PLEASE PREREGISTER HERE: http://bit.ly/ThalTransfusion

For more information please contact Cynthia Sayers: cay1@cdc.gov

National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities
Division of Blood Disorders

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