Utilization of Blood Transfusion Services Provided by Al-Baha Central Blood Bank

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Abstract:
Introduction: Blood transfusion plays vital roles in the medical and surgical practice. Blood safety is one of the most important issues in blood transfusion. Blood and blood components are frequently ordered and utilized without proper analysis of the real needs. Objectives: The main objectives of this study were to evaluate blood transfusion utilization at Al-Baha Central Blood Bank during the period 2012-2015. Methods: a retrospective 4-year analysis from January 2012 to December 2015 at Al-Baha Central Blood Bank. Results: In this study, the most common donors were Saudi donors (89.2%), volunteer blood donors comprised. The highest percentage (90.3%) of collected blood and 85.4% were crossed matched and issued to different hospital in the region. Blood group O+ was the most commonly utilized type of blood. Conclusion: reviewing blood bank statistics are vital tools for a successful blood transfusion service, and recruitment of more volunteer blood donors are recommended. Recommendation: Continuous monitoring by applying the quality indicators such as Cross-match to Transfusion ratio (C:T), Transfusion index (TI), Transfusion probability (%T), of issued out blood will improve the blood transfusion services and will contribute towards effective blood utilization.

Key words: Blood transfusion services, voluntary blood donation, blood utilization, Al-Baha Central Blood Bank

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I. Introduction:
Blood transfusion plays vital roles in the medical and surgical practice. Blood safety is one of the most important issues in blood transfusion. Therefore, the World Health Organization issued guidelines for control of blood transfusion, storage and donation. In May 1975, the 28th World Health Assembly (WHA) resolution WHA28.72, called on Member States to promote national blood programmes based on voluntary non-remunerated donations, and to promulgate laws to govern their operation. Increasing advancement in the field of Transfusion Medicine and Technology has necessitated enforcing measures to ensure quality of Blood and its products. The blood transfusion system has made significant advancement in areas of donor management, storage of blood, grouping and cross matching, testing for transmissible diseases, rationale use of blood and distribution etc. Blood and blood components are frequently ordered without proper analysis of the real needs. Such practices have greater implications in resource-constrained settings.

Blood banking services in the Kingdom are hospital based, and most government hospitals derive blood from relatives and friends of the patients and less frequently from the voluntary donors. The General Directorate of Laboratories and Blood Banks of the Ministry of Health is the organization responsible for blood transfusion services in Saudi Arabia. The Ministry of Health funds the programme, and blood is given free of charge to all residents of Saudi Arabia.
In Al-Baha province blood transfusion service assumes regional character since the Central Bank, which is part of the major Ministry of Health Central Laboratories, supply blood products not only to the main hospitals within the city boundaries but also to smaller provincial hospitals. The responsibilities of Al-Baha Central Blood Banks include i. The collection of blood from donors ii. Testing the blood for infective agents iii. Processing of donated blood units and the preparation of packed red blood cells (RBCs), fresh frozen plasma (FFP), and platelets iv. Storage and issue of blood products. The aim of our study was to evaluate blood transfusion utilization at Al-Baha Central Blood Bank during the period 2012 -2015, and provide recommendations for improvement.

II. Methodology

Study design:
This was a cross sectional , retrospective descriptive survey of the blood transfusion services provided by Al-Baha Central Blood Bank during the period Jan 2012 – Dec 2015 which corresponds to 1433- 1436H.

Study population:
The system of blood unit collection by type of blood donors was of either ‘voluntary’ or ‘family/replacement’. All blood bank records reviewed for a 4-year period from January 2012 to December 2015.

Sample size:
The size of the sample was the records for a 4-year period of all donors who were recruited by Al-Baha Central Blood Bank at the period Jan 2012- Dec 2015.

Data collection:
The tool of data collection was a checklist containing all of the information required for the study. Data were collected using review of registers technique, the information collected included were; nationality and types of donors, number of units collected or cross-matched , number of units utilized or usage by clinical service was identified by the hospital location and blood groups of the donors. The data collected were statically analyzed for percentages of each item.

Results:
During the study period a total of (4513) units of blood were collected from both Saudi and non-Saudidonors, with Saudi constituting most of the donors (89.2%) Fig (1). The highest percentage (90.3%) of collected blood were voluntary type of donation rather than familial or replacement types which constitute only (9.7%)as shown in Table (1).

Most of the collected blood units (84.5%) were cross-matched and issued out to different hospitals of Al-Baha province; Table (2), with Baljurashi Maternity and Paediatrics hospital constituting the higher rate of blood units utilization during the study period, followed by King Fahd Hospital, Al-Mandag General Hospital and Al-Hugra Hospital, while other hospitals such as Al-Mikhwa Hospital, Ghilwah Hospital and Qudran Private Hospital rarely utilize blood units from the Al-Baha Central Blood Bank, except for the rare Negative types of blood groups. The most commonly utilized blood components was packed red blood cells followed by platelet concentrates.

Fig (1) Nationality of BloodDonors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Collected Units</th>
<th>Donors type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Voluntary</td>
<td>Replacement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>1180</td>
<td>1001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>1188</td>
<td>1068</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>1132</td>
<td>1020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>1012</td>
<td>986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4513</td>
<td>4075 (90.3%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table (1): Types of Blood Donors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Collected Units</th>
<th>Issued out Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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Utilization of Blood Transfusion Services Provided by Al-Baha Central Blood Bank

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Units Issued</th>
<th>Utilized</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>1180</td>
<td>923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>1188</td>
<td>986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>1132</td>
<td>982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>1013</td>
<td>923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4513</td>
<td>3814(84.5%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table (2) Amount of Issued out Units Blood

Regarding the blood groups of blood collected, group O+, A+, and B+ constitute 49%, 23% and 20% of the total blood units collected, respectively as shown in Figure (2) below.

![Blood Groups of the Collected Units of Blood](image)

**III. Discussion**

In our study, we tried to attract the attention towards the transfusion practice conducted by Al-Baha Central Blood Bank and to blood utilization by some hospitals in Al-Baha region. However, the results might not echo the actual transfusion practice in it. Continuous monitoring will help to supply safe blood and blood products to needy patients and prevent over-utilization of a scarce resource. The role of quality in transfusion practice is looked at three contexts: the blood collection centre, the transfusion service and clinical practice. All indicators have a part to play in maintaining quality, monitoring performance and ensuring safety and integrity for the recipient, donor and staff.

To our knowledge, our study is the first study of this kind in Al-Baha region hence gives a clue and opportunity to comment on efficiency of blood donation and utilization and compare Al-Baha Central Blood Bank performance with others.

In this study both Saudi and Non-Saudi as resident in the area, contribute to donation of blood for saving lives, but due the nature and environment of Al-Baha region, that make it not attractive to foreigners as compare to other regions, so the number of non-Saudi resident was far less than the Saudi and this was reflected in their less contribution to donation (10.8%).

Blood donors are differentiated into: voluntary, family replacement, and remunerated or paid donors. Our study revealed that the voluntary donation is more predominant than other types (90.3%) this reflect that most of the Al-Baha resident were of young age, again Al-Baha is at high altitude area where most people have high red blood cell count and high haemoglobin content, this motivate them to voluntary donation as therapeutic measure to lower haemoglobin level. This finding is opposite to findings in a study done in Saudi Arabia, which stated, the most common donors were replacement (46%) and statutory donors (35%), while volunteer blood donors comprised a lower percentage (19%).

In this study, the utilization of blood units were seen mostly by Baljurashi Maternity and Paediatrics hospital and King Fahad Hospitalas compared with less utilization in other hospitals for the period of study. This can be due nature of the attendants to these hospitals as they were pregnant and paediatric patient, and these group were classified as at risk for becoming anemic and need blood transfusions.

**IV. Conclusion:**

Reviewing blood bank statistics are vital tools for a successful blood transfusion service, and recruitment of more volunteer blood donors are recommended again appropriate ordering and use of blood and blood components will contribute towards filling up of the gap between demand and supply.

**Recommendation:** Continuous monitoring by applying the quality indicators such as Cross-match to Transfusion ratio (C:T), Transfusion index (TI), Transfusion probability (%T), of issued out blood will improve the blood transfusion services and will contribute towards effective blood utilization.
Acknowledgments

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