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Special Points:

Donation of 5000 convalescent plasma



IBTO founder re- ceives the 2020 WFH President's Award



IBTO joins Solidarity II global serologic study for COVID-19



National donor vigi- lance program led to considerable decrease of donation-related adverse events



More than 5000 convalescent plasma donated during past months

“Of 300,000 recovered patients of COVID-19, 6,460 donors referred blood collection centers and donated 5086 plasma units, said Dr. Haji Beigi, the Spokesman of IBTO.

Noting that the statistic shows that about 2 percent of the recovered people in the whole country have referred to donate plasma, he said, provinces of Tehran, Khuzestan, Isfahan, Mazandaran, Khorasan Razavi, Kermanshah, and West Azarbaijan provinces had the most plasma donors so far.

“24 collection centers in the country are ready and capable of collecting convalescent plasma from volunteers”, he added.



IBTO joins Solidarity II “global serologic study for COVID-19”

Following to the recall of WHO to urge countries to join Solidarity II studies, IBTO with two study proposals joined the project. Monitoring the prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 antibody among blood donors in Iran and Monitoring the prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 Antibodies in serum of Iranian recovered blood donors were two proposals made by IBTO. The preliminary result of the first study is going to be presented on 11th of September 2020 in the meeting of solidarity collaborators.

Solidarity II is a global collaboration led by the World Health Organization that promotes the implementation of serological surveys of SARS-CoV-2 in a collaborative environment for public health agencies and academic institutions world wide.

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Fereydoun Ala receives the 2020 WFH President's Award



Established in 2017, this award is given to individuals who have served their local community for a significant amount of time, and who have made a substantial impact on the hemophilia community nationwide, helping to further the mission and goals of the WFH.

This year, the WFH is honored to present the President's Award to Fereydoun Ala, MD, for the impact of his tireless work on behalf of the hemophilia community in Iran and across the Middle East for over four decades.

Dr. Fereydoun Ala is the founder of the Iranian National Blood Transfusion Service (INBTS), a centralized, state-funded organization, established in 1974. After the Iranian Islamic revolution in 1981, the name of the organization was changed to Iranian Blood Transfusion Organization (IBTO).



IBTO signs a MOU with Iran University of Medical Sciences

A memorandum of understanding was signed between IBTO and Iran University of Medical Sciences in order to develop scientific, educational and research cooperation. The MOU will last for two years and was signed by the presidents of both institutions.

Cooperative education of the students, development of hospital blood banks in selected hospitals, holding short-term training courses and workshops on hemovigilance and immunohematology are the main goals of this MOU.

The president of Iran University of Medical Sciences also visited IBTO Center for Innovation.



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Implementation of a successful national donor vigilance program led to considerable decrease of donation-related adverse events

The first guideline to record and report the adverse events of blood donation was formulated in 2013. Accordingly, the department of donor vigilance was established in 2016 in order to collect and analyze the related information on adverse events of blood donation, identify the causes and provide corrective measures to prevent them. More than fifty physicians in all blood centers in Iran work in their donor vigilance department.

According to the released data in 2019, from 2000406 whole blood donation, 9227 adverse reactions have been recorded in the whole country. The rate of adverse reactions from blood donation was 4.6% per 1000 cases, the annual lowest rate.

The rate in Iran is considerably low comparing to median global rate which is 20-60 per 1000 cases.

In 2019, 94.4% of donation-related adverse reaction occurred in blood centers and the rest outside the center, while the international statistics shows the average rate of 15% for adverse reactions outside the centers.

Tracking and reporting the rates of adverse events outside the center in 2019 did not change significantly comparing to 2018 which shows the proper prevention of events in blood donors after leaving the blood centers.

In the past year, 83% of events are definitely related to blood donation. The severe adverse reactions were reported in 0.3% of all cases which shows a decreasing trend during past three years. (from 6% to 0.3%)



Published articles in a glance

Clinical Efficacy of Convalescent Plasma for Treatment of COVID-19 Infections: Results of a Multicenter Clinical Study is the title of a study published by Abolghasemi and his colleagues in Transfusion and Apheresis Science Journal.

One hundred eighty-nine COVID-19 positive patients including 115 patients in plasma therapy group and 74 patients in control group, registered in the hospitals with confirmed COVID-19 infection, entered this multi-center clinical study. Comparison of outcomes including all-cause mortality, total hospitalization days and patients' need for intubation between the two patient groups shows that total of 98 (98.2%) of patients who received convalescent plasma were discharged from hospital which is substantially higher compared to 56 (78.7%) patients in control group. Length of hospitalization days was significantly lower (9.54 days) in convalescent plasma group compared with that of control group (12.88 days). Only 8 patients (7%) in convalescent plasma group required intubation while that was 20% in control group. This clinical study provides strong evidence to support the efficacy of convalescent plasma therapy in COVID-19 patients and recommends this treatment for management of these patients. Clinical efficacy, immediate availability and potential cost effectiveness could be considered as main advantages of convalescent plasma therapy.

Launch of nationwide blood donation campaign during Muharram

