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Special Points:

Webinar on Donor Management during SARS-CoV-2



IBTO to establish a virtual platform on convalescent plasma therapy



IBTO experts present their latest findings in ISBT 2020



Regional webinar on Experiences and Researches in Donor Management during SARS-CoV-2 Outbreak

A regional webinar on Experiences and Researches in Donor Management during SARS-CoV-2 was held on 24 November 2020. The webinar was organized as one of the activities of IBTO and Iranian High Institute for Research and Education on Transfusion Medicine as WHO Collaborating Center for Research & Training on Blood Safety .

Prof. Peyman Eshghi, IBTO Managing Director and the Chair of the webinar inaugurated the webinar mentioning the networking opportunities provided by COVID-19 outbreak while at the same time it has caused many suffering. He added that although IBTO was among the first blood services hit by the outbreak, it was a step ahead of other countries in dealing with the crisis.



His speech was followed by the welcoming remarks of Dr. Christoph Andreas Hamelmann, WHO Representative in the Iran. While welcoming the lecturers and participants, Dr. Hemelmen mentioned IBTO as one of the pioneer and active organizations in Iran in terms of managing the adverse effects of COVID-19 by keeping the supply of safe and adequate blood and blood components.

The webinar was categorized to three main sessions including blood supply management during SARS-CoV-2 outbreak, collecting convalescent plasma of SARS-CoV-2 and conducted researches during SARS-CoV-2 outbreak.

Lecturers from Iran, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Oman, Austria, Canada and Asian Association of Transfusion Medicine (AATM) presented their latest findings during the webinar. Totally 11 lectures were presented and at the end of each session, participants were given 10 minutes to ask their related questions .

Almost 90 participants from different countries in the region and world participated in the webinar.

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IBTO to establish a virtual platform on Convalescent Plasma Therapy

The Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS), organized a webinar on Health Diplomacy, Responding to the Challenge of COVID-19-Plasma Therapy on 17 November 2020.

Academicians, experts and private sector representatives from Islamic Republic of Iran, Switzerland, Sweden, United Kingdom, and the representative of World Health Organization (WHO) participated at the webinar.

Dr. Peyman Eshghi (IBTO Managing Director) and Dr. Saeed Mohammadi (Deputy for Technical and Modern Technology) presented the experiences and challenges of IBTO in convalescent plasma collection and therapy.

The participants agreed to convene a platform on COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma (CP) collection and transfusion which would be moderated by IBTO. The platform is supposed to be served for exchanging knowledge and experience on ways of CP collection, donor inclusion/exemption criteria, methods of Plasma titration, volume of collected plasma unit, rates of plasma collection and distribution and feedbacks after CP transfusion.

Subsequently, IBTO drafted a plan of action to establish the platform between interested partners and experts and expressed its readiness to hold the 2nd webinar in February 2021.



IBTO experts present their latest findings in ISBT 2020

ISBT 2020 congress took place between 12-16 December, featuring live sessions, and e-posters, a virtual exhibition and workshops. The experts of IBTO participated in the congress by presenting 6 posters in different categories.

Dr. Peyman Eshghi, IBTO Managing Director presented the 3-year experience of IBTO in plasma-pheresis supply. Dr. Leyla Kasraian described how establishing maximum surgical blood ordering schedule will improve blood utilization. Dr. Maryam Zadsar, presented two posters regarding gene frequencies in Iranian Turk men blood donors and immune thrombocytopenic patients. Dr. Mohammad Balali retrospectively analyzed the adverse reactions of blood transfusion using Iranian national hemovigilance data recording system. Finally, Mrs. Fariba Sarem assessed iron overload and expression analysis of hepcidin and erythroferrone genes in patients with beta-thalassemia in Iran.

Published articles at a glance



Trends and epidemiological analysis of hepatitis B virus, hepatitis C virus, human immunodeficiency virus, and human T-cell lymphotropic virus among Iranian blood donors: strategies for improving blood safety is the title of a study published by Azadeh Omidkhoda and her colleagues in BMC Infectious Diseases.

In this article, the authors evaluated the prevalence and trends of TTIs, including hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV), human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), and human T-cell lymphotropic virus (HTLV 1/2), and the impact of the donors' characteristics such as age, sex, and donor status on the prevalence of TTIs in blood donors in seven large provinces of Iran from 2010 to 2018.

The analysis of the prevalence and trend of TTIs in 3,622,860 blood donors showed a significant decreasing trend in first-time and regular donors. Additionally, compared to first-time donors, regular donors made safer blood donations with lower risks of HBV, HIV, HCV and HTLV 1/2 ($P < 0.0001$). Although the prevalence of HTLV 1/2 and HBV was higher in females, TTIs had a significant decreasing trend in males and females. Finally, it was found that the prevalence of HBV and HTLV 1/2 increased with age up to 40-49 years and then decreased thereafter.

The decreasing trends of TTIs in Iranian donors during 9 years may indicate that the various strategies implemented by IBTO have been effective in recent years. Other factors such as a decrease in the prevalence of specific TTIs in the general population might have also contributed to these declines.

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