

THE USE OF BLOOD AND BLOOD REPLACEMENT PRODUCTS IN ORTHOPAEDICS AND MUSCULOSKELETAL TRAUMATOLOGY

In recent years orthopaedists have been looking for ways to reduce the need for blood transfusions to patients undergoing surgery. The experiences of domestic and foreign centres review considerable discrepancies in opinions on the possibilities and indications for the treatment of intra- and post-operative blood loss in orthopaedic surgery patients. This is due to a number of reasons, the most important of which is that the decision to transfuse blood should only be taken following careful consideration of both the benefits to the patient and potential adverse effects. At the same time the introduction of new funding regulations has made the economic factor an important aspect driving the interest in possibilities for reducing the use of blood and blood replacement products.

We hope that the exchange of views on the pages of OTR will lead to a consensus opinion of the orthopaedic community regarding blood therapy of patients undergoing surgery at trauma and orthopaedic departments.

The issue will traditionally feature commissioned articles and original reports from orthopaedic centres in Poland. We will welcome papers concerned with ways to reduce the need for allogenic blood, and in particular:

1. the effect of surgical technique on the amount of blood lost during surgery (including low-invasive techniques),
2. the use of intraoperative hypotension,
3. the use of pharmacological agents to improve haemostasis,
4. the use of systems to optimise blood use, e.g. MSBOS (Maximum Surgical Blood Order Schedule) or TS (Type of Screen),
5. indications for and limits to peri- and intraoperative autotransfusion,
6. possibilities for increasing erythropoiesis or administration of RBCs.

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