

Cross-matching

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To prevent transfusion reactions, all transfusions are preceded by ABO and rhesus typing of both donor and recipient blood to ensure compatibility . The recipient's serum is then mixed with the donor's cells to confirm ABO compatibility and to test for rhesus and any other blood group antigen-antibody reaction. Full cross-matching of blood may take up to 45 minutes in most laboratories. In more urgent situations, 'type-specific' blood is provided; this is only ABO/rhesus matched and can be issued within 10-15 minutes . Where blood must be given in an emergency , group O (universal donor) blood is given (O- to - females, O+ to males). When blood transfusion is prescribed and blood is administered, it is essential that the correct patient receives the correct transfusion. Two healthcare personnel should check the patient's details against the prescription and the label of the donor blood. In addition, the donor blood serial number should also be checked against the issue slip for that patient. Provided these principles are strictly adhered to, the number of severe and fatal ABO incompatibility reactions can be minimised.

Antibodies Frequency (%) Anti-A, anti-B 46 Anti-B 42 Anti-A 9 None 3

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