

Post-Transfusion Purpura: the First Documented Case in Croatia

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Aim: Description of post-transfusion purpura (PTP) caused by anti-PIA1 in a 53-year-old multiparous woman, previously not transfused.

Methods: Serological study was carried out using flow cytometry and solid-phase platelet enzyme-linked immuno-assay (ELISA).

Results: Thrombocytopenia was initiated by SAG-M red cells suspension. The patient's plasma contained a potent platelet antibody with anti-PIA1 specificity. Her platelets were typed as homozygous PIA1-negative. The patient also developed lymphocytotoxic antibodies. She did not respond to pooled random-donor platelets and had a febrile transfusion reaction in response to the platelet transfusion. A combination of steroids and plasmapheresis produced a prompt increment of platelet blood concentration.

Conclusion: This case is the first diagnosed post-transfusion purpura in Croatia caused by alloimmunization with the PIA1 antigen. Our findings support the assumption that DRw52-positive women with previous pregnancies are at the risk of developing PTP.

Key words: HLA antigens; pregnancy; purpura, thrombocytopenic