21 Aug. 2017

Pat Ooley
Christopher Bouquet
AABB Standards Committee

Mark and Philip:

The Scientific, Medical and Technical Committee of America’s Blood Centers endorses the request of the AABB/THOR working group to the AABB Standards Committee to modify Standard 5.15.1 to permit the use of low titer, group O whole blood (WB) in massively bleeding patients prior to the availability of type-specific blood.

The rationale provided in their proposal is sound, and we agree that there is a need for this product for both prehospital use and in-hospital use for patients with life-threatening hemorrhage. From the literature cited, the potential benefits of using low titer group O whole blood appear to outweigh the risks of transfusing low titer, potentially incompatible plasma in this population.

Several committee members commented that our support for this change does not obviate the need for appropriately designed and executed studies that (1.) standardize the measurement of anti-A and B titers and (2.) address the outcomes attendant on transfusing low titer type O whole blood. Others suggested considering the Standards to ask individual collection facilities for clear definitions of what they consider “low titer”.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

Louis M. Katz MD
America’s Blood Centers
Chief Medical Officer

lkatz@americasblood.org
563-349-5401
August 14, 2017

AABB-THOR Working Party,

The Trauma Center at UT Health San Antonio strongly supports and endorses your appeal to the AABB Standards Committee to modify standard 5.15.1 to permit the use of low titer, group O whole blood (WB) in massively bleeding patients regardless of the recipient’s ABO group. The rationale you provide in your proposal is sound and valid, and we agree that there is an urgent need for this product for both prehospital use and in-hospital use for patients with life-threatening hemorrhage. The potential benefit of using low titer group O whole blood far outweighs the minor risks of transfusing low titer potentially incompatible plasma in this population.

Respectfully,

Donald H. Jenkins, MD, FACS
Professor/Clinical, Division of Trauma and Emergency Surgery
Vice Chair for Quality, Department of Surgery
Betty and Bob Kelso Distinguished Chair in Burn and Trauma Surgery
Associate Deputy Director, Military Health Institute
UT Health San Antonio
7703 Floyd Curl Drive
San Antonio, TX 78229-3900
August 16, 2017

Philip C. Spinella, MD, FCCM
Co-Chair, AABB-THOR Working Party
Co-Chair, THOR Network
Professor, Department of Pediatrics
Washington University in St Louis, St Louis, MO

AABB-THOR Working Party,

The Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma strongly supports and endorses your appeal to the AABB Standards Committee to modify standard 5.15.1 to permit the use of low titer, group O whole blood (WB) in massively bleeding patients regardless of the recipient’s ABO group.

The rationale you provide in your proposal is sound and valid, and we agree that there is an urgent need for this product for both prehospital use and in-hospital use for patients with life-threatening hemorrhage. The potential benefit of using low titer group O whole blood far outweighs the minor risks of transfusing low titer potentially incompatible plasma in this population.

Respectfully,

Bruce A. Crookes, MD, FACS
President, Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma

Copy: EAST Board of Directors
21 August 2017

AABB-THOR Working Party,

The Committee for Tactical Emergency Casualty Care strongly supports and endorses your appeal to the AABB Standards Committee to modify standard 5.15.1 to permit the use of low titer, group O whole blood (WB) in massively bleeding patients regardless of the recipient’s ABO group. The rationale you provide in your proposal is sound and valid, and we agree that there is an urgent need for this product for both prehospital use and in-hospital use for patients with life-threatening hemorrhage. The potential benefit of using low titer group O whole blood far outweighs the minor risks of transfusing low titer potentially incompatible plasma in this population.

Respectfully,

Dr. E. Reed Smith, MD, FACEP
Co-Chair
Committee for Tactical Emergency Casualty Care
www.C-TECC.org
21 August 2017

AABB-THOR Working Party,

The Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center strongly supports and endorses your appeal to the AABB Standards Committee to modify standard 5.15.1 to permit the use of low titer, group O whole blood (WB) in massively bleeding patients regardless of the recipient’s ABO group. The rationale you provide in your proposal is sound and valid, and we agree that there is an urgent need for this product for both prehospital use and in-hospital use for patients with life-threatening hemorrhage. The potential benefit of using low titer group O whole blood far outweighs the minor risks of transfusing low titer potentially incompatible plasma in this population.

Respectfully,

Susan N. Rossmann, M.D., Ph.D.
Chief Medical Officer
Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center
1400 La Concha Lane
Houston, TX 77054

SNR/AABB-THOR/bp
August 22, 2017

AABB-THOR Working Party,

BioBridge Global, and its related subsidiaries South Texas Blood and Tissue Center, QualTex Laboratories and GenCure, strongly supports and endorses your appeal to the AABB Standards Committee to modify standard 5.15.1 to permit the use of low titer, group O whole blood (WB) in massively bleeding patients regardless of the recipient's ABO group. The rationale you provide in your proposal is sound and valid, and we agree that there is an urgent need for this product for both prehospital use and in-hospital use for patients with life-threatening hemorrhage. In fact, we are pursuing this strategy in our area utilizing a grant from the San Antonio Medical Foundation. The potential benefit of using low titer group O whole blood far outweighs the minor risks of transfusing low titer potentially incompatible plasma in this population.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

Martin J. Landon
CEO, BioBridge Global
12 August 2017

AABB-THOR Working Party,

The New York Blood Center strongly supports and endorses your appeal to the AABB Standards Committee to modify Standard 5.15.1 to permit the use of low titer, group O whole blood (WB) in massively bleeding patients regardless of the recipient’s ABO group. The rationale you provide in your proposal is sound and valid, and we agree that there is an urgent need for this product for both prehospital use and in-hospital use for patients with life-threatening hemorrhage. The potential benefit of using low titer group O whole blood far outweighs the minor risks of transfusing low titer potentially incompatible plasma in this population.

Respectfully,

Beth Shaz, M.D.
Chief Medical and Scientific Officer
Senior Vice President
16 August 2017

AABB-THOR Working Party,

The Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center strongly supports and endorses your appeal to the AABB Standards Committee to modify standard 5.15.1 to permit the use of low titer, group O whole blood (WB) in massively bleeding patients regardless of the recipient's ABO group. The rationale you provide in your proposal is sound and valid, and we agree that there is an urgent need for this product for both prehospital use and in-hospital use for patients with life-threatening hemorrhage. The potential benefit of using low titer group O whole blood far outweighs the minor risks of transfusing low titer potentially incompatible plasma in this population.

Respectfully,

Yasuko Erickson, MD
Chief Medical Officer
Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center
August 15, 2017

THOR Working Party
AABB
4550 Montgomery Avenue
North Tower, Suite 325
Baltimore, Maryland 20814 3304

Dear Colleagues:

We are writing to express the strong support and endorsement of Bloodworks for your appeal to the AABB Standards Committee to modify standard 5.15.1 to permit the use of low-titer, group O whole blood in massively bleeding patients regardless of the recipient’s ABO group.

The rationale you provide in your proposal is sound and valid, and we agree that there is an urgent need for this product for both prehospital and in-hospital use for patients with life-threatening hemorrhage. The potential benefit of using low titer group O whole blood far outweighs the minor risks of transfusing low-titer, potentially incompatible plasma in this population.

Please continue your work on this effort and convey our support of your proposal to the Standards Committee.

Sincerely,

Yanyun Wu, MD, PhD
Chief Medical Officer

James P. AuBuchon, MD, FCAP, FRCP (Edin)
President & CEO

BloodworksNW.org

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Seattle, WA 98104-1256
206-689-6600