

# Challenges in Safe Blood Transfusion: An Experience at a Tertiary Care Hospital of Pakistan

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Ensuring the safety of blood transfusions is a cornerstone of healthcare in tertiary care hospitals. However, numerous challenges complicate this process, potentially compromising patient safety. This talk will address key issues encountered in the blood transfusion process at a leading tertiary care hospital in Pakistan, highlighting gaps in the current system and suggesting practical solutions.

A major concern is the improper handling of sampling and requisition slips. Errors in blood sampling or incomplete requisition slips can lead to serious consequences, including mismatched transfusions. Ensuring proper sampling techniques and timely rectification of erroneous slips is vital for maintaining transfusion safety. Furthermore, logistical issues related to the transport of blood products often result in delays or spoilage, which can be life-threatening in critical cases. The importance of timely and accurate blood banking services will be underscored, as delays often compromise patient care. The talk will also address the issue of

obtaining proper consent from blood donors, a critical yet often overlooked ethical and legal requirement. Additionally, improper documentation, including incomplete blood transfusion notes and inadequate transfusion records, hampers the tracking and safety of transfusions. Another critical concern is the lack of proper recording and reporting of transfusion reactions, which, if not managed, can result in preventable complications.

Other operational challenges include the safe disposal of empty blood bags and the temporary storage of blood in wards. Improper handling and storage practices can lead to infections or contamination, posing a significant health risk. The talk will also highlight the importance of blood component separation, emphasizing its role in optimizing the use of donated blood for specific patient needs. By exploring these challenges and sharing experiences from a tertiary care hospital, the aim is to shed light on areas for improvement in blood transfusion safety, ultimately enhancing the quality of patient care.

## Disclosure

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