

Blood Transfusions -- Who is at risk? (10 min.)

Purpose of outline and note to speaker: The purpose of this outline is to assist publishers in recognizing when they are at a higher risk for receiving a blood transfusion. It should also encourage such ones to seek the assistance of the HLC before going to a medical facility, especially for treatment of the high-risk condition. You will need to prepare well and practice this part in order to deliver it in a clear, easy-to-understand manner and to stay within the time allotted for the part.

[Introduction – 1 min.]

The Bible command regarding abstaining from blood is clear to Jehovah's people and they strive to obey it at all times, including when receiving medical treatment (Acts 15:28, 29)

[Practical steps to avoid transfusion situations – 7 min.]

What are some practical steps you can take to avoid blood transfusions? (Prov. 22:3)

Most doctors are trained to use blood transfusions as a standard treatment option for many medical conditions

It is important to recognize when you are "at risk" of being given a blood transfusion and take wise steps to reduce the likelihood of blood transfusions becoming an issue for you -- Prov. 22:3

Any medical procedure that causes bleeding can put you at risk for a blood transfusion

The following conditions will almost always put you at risk for a blood transfusion:

- young children with malaria
 - malaria infects and causes the destruction of red blood cells. Since younger or smaller children have less volume of blood, this can quickly become a serious situation
- sickle-cell patients
 - sickle-cell causes red blood cells to become distorted in shape. These cells are then destroyed by the body causing a loss of blood. Just as with malaria, this affects younger or smaller children more quickly since they have less volume of blood
- fibroid operations, pregnancy and childbirth (sisters)
 - The uterus or a woman's womb has a very rich blood supply. Because of this, any procedures involving the womb can cause a large amount of blood loss
- newborn infants with jaundice (medical term – hyperbilirubinemia)
 - The liver removes a naturally occurring yellowish substance in the blood (bilirubin), but when a baby is born, it's liver may not be fully working yet. This may cause a buildup of this substance which can be harmful to the child. A common medical solution to this condition is to "exchange" the infants blood with transfused blood

Do you or your children fit into any of the above? If you or a family member is "at risk" for a blood transfusion, contact the HLC through your local elders **BEFORE** going to the hospital for these conditions

Ask the elders to obtain a referral to a doctor who specializes in your particular condition and who respects our stand on blood

Following this suggestion will help you to avoid situations where the doctor is pressuring you to accept a blood transfusion, or where the doctor forces a blood transfusion on a child

In review, ask the audience:

- What medical conditions especially put one at risk for a blood transfusion?
- If you or a family member has one of these conditions what should you do?
- If you suspect that a blood transfusion issue might arise for any reason, what should you do?

[Conclusion – 1 min.]

Remind the audience to fill out and carry at all times the durable power of attorney (DPA) or the Identity Card for children

If you have any questions about what was discussed in this part, please ask an elder to help you

How thankful we are to Jehovah's organization as it assists us in being "wise" so as to obey all his commandments