



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR PLATELET DONATION

What is apheresis?

Donor apheresis is a special type of blood donation in which a specific component, viz. platelets, granulocytes (white cells) or plasma is withdrawn from the donor using a special equipment called as cell separator; the remaining components are returned to the donor's blood circulation.

How much time will the procedure take?

This procedure takes about 90 minutes during which time the donor is constantly monitored by trained medical personnel.

What are the types of platelets available?

There are 2 types of Platelets available viz. RDP or Random donor Platelets and SDP or Single donor Platelets (prepared through apheresis).

What is the advantage of Apheresis?

Platelet concentrate prepared from one unit of whole blood contains very few platelets. Six to ten such whole-blood derived platelets would be required to supply enough platelets for one patient. However, platelets donated during one apheresis session by one donor are sufficient for one transfusion, thus reducing the chance of transfusion transmitted infections.

How Can I Become A Platelet Apheresis Donor?

A blood donor who meets the basic blood donation criteria plus the following points is eligible for apheresis donation:

- Age – 18 to 65 years
- Weight more than 55kg
- Hemoglobin level more than 12.5 g/dL
- Platelet count more than 1.5 lac/cumm

How often can one donate single donor platelets?

It is safe to donate twice a week with at least 48 hour gap from previous plateletpheresis, 24 times in a year.

Pre-requisites for plateletpheresis donors

1. Donors who have taken aspirin or aspirin containing medications within 36 hours are deferred
2. The interval between the two procedures should be at least 48 hours.
3. A donor shall not undergo the procedure more than 2 times per week or 24 times in a year
4. Platelet count should be done prior to procedure and must be more than 1.5lac/cumm
5. If extra plasma is collected and if the procedure is performed more than once every 4 week, the procedure should not be done if the total serum protein is less than 6.0 g/dl or if there has been an unexplained weight loss
6. Platelet may be collected from donors who do not meet the requirement if the component is of particular value to the patient - HLA matched donor

What is the storage temperature of platelets?

Platelets obtained by plateletpheresis using cell separator may be stored for five days on platelet agitator with incubator at 22°C, however if the product is prepared in an open system, it must be transfused within 24 hours.

Notifications for regular repeat platelet donors (POP-UPS)

1. Always check the Platelet Count before the procedure: Platelet count should be done prior to procedure and must be more than 1.5lac/cumm.
2. Always know the number of times platelet donation was done. If extra plasma is collected or if the procedure is performed more than once every 4 week, **the procedure should not be done if the total serum protein is less than 6.0 g/dl** or if there has been an unexplained weight loss