

# Blood Banking & Transfusion Medicine 101

## Requirements for Storage & Expiration

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## Learning Objectives

After participating in this program you should be able to....

- Describe the rationale for different storage requirements, by blood product.
- List shelf-life limits for commonly available blood products.



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## Primary Goals of Blood Component Preparation and Storage

- Maximum viability and function of cells (or clotting factors)
- Prevent physical changes that would be detrimental to the viability or function
- Minimize bacterial proliferation
- For best inventory management, longest duration while maintaining cell viability and function



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## Factors that can determine or affect storage conditions

1. Type of cell or constituent to be stored/transfused
2. Changes to the cell during storage → *Storage Lesion*
3. Storage solutions and composition used
4. Storage temperature



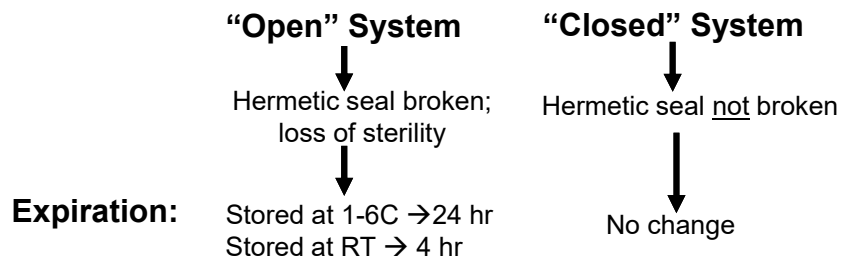
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## Factors that determine or affect storage conditions

### 5. “Open” vs “closed” system



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## Guidelines for Storage Requirements

### Regulatory

- FDA (Food and Drug Administration)
- AABB (Standards for Blood Banks and Transfusion Services)

Based on outcomes from research and various studies



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## Evaluation of WB/RBC Storage Solutions

### FDA requirements

- Survival: >75% of RBCs still detectable in circulation 24 hours post transfusion
- Integrity of RBCs: Free hemoglobin must be <1% at end of shelf-life



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Dumont LJ, AuBuchon JP. Transfusion 2008;48:1053-60.

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## Measurement of Viability and Function of Stored Platelets

### In-vitro:

- Swirling phenomenon (light-scattering ability of discoid platelets may correlate with platelet viability)
- Maintenance of pH >6.2



### In-vivo:

- Measuring pre- and post-transfusion platelet counts



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Shrivastava M. The platelet storage lesion. Transfus and Apheresis Science 2009;41:105-113.

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## Storage Solutions and Requirements by Blood Component

RBCs  
Platelets  
Plasma  
Cryoprecipitate



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### What happens to red cells stored in the refrigerator?

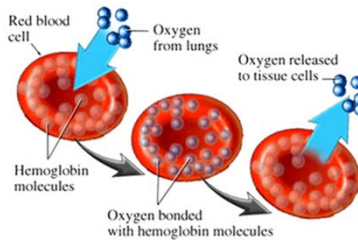


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## RBC Function and “Storage Lesion”



- Primary function of red blood cells is the delivery of O<sub>2</sub> from the lungs to the tissues.
- Hemoglobin (Hgb) is the main carrier protein for O<sub>2</sub>
- Level of 2,3 DPG affects the release of O<sub>2</sub> from Hgb
- As stored RBCs metabolize glucose to lactic acid, pH falls, and 2,3-DPG declines
- Around the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of storage, pH drops and 2,3 – DPG levels begin to fall



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## RBC “Storage Lesion”

Metabolism continues and biochemical and structural changes occur.....

### Biochemical

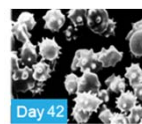


Plasma Hgb,  
Plasma K<sup>+</sup>



ATP, pH, 2,3-DPG,  
plasma Na<sup>+</sup>

### Structural



Changes are correlated with  
loss of RBC viability



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Prevent or slow down the changes that occur....

- ***To maintain optimal viability....RBCs are stored at 1-6°C for specific # of days as determined by the preservative solution used***
- ***Composition of the preservative solution for storing WB/RBCs***



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## Anticoagulant-Preservatives Solutions

- Purpose:
  - Prevent clotting
  - Maintain the RBC (or platelet) viability and functionality during storage
- Basic Composition
  - Anticoagulant
  - Sugar or dextrose
  - Phosphate
  - Adenine (some types)



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## Anticoagulant-Preservative Solutions – Basic Ingredients

Ingredient	Main Function
Sodium citrate	Anticoagulant- Citrate interferes with calcium-dependent steps of coagulation
Citric acid	Maintains anticoagulated state
Dextrose	Supports generation of ATP; provides nutrients for cell metabolism
Sodium phosphate	Serves as buffer to minimize effects of declining pH during storage
Adenine (some types)	Improves synthesis of ATP for cell metabolism



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## Current FDA-Approved Anticoagulant-Preservative Solutions

	ACD-A	CPD	CP2D	CPDA-1
<b>Trisodium Citrate</b>	22.0 g/L	26.3 g/L	26.3 g/L	26.3 g/L
<b>Citric acid</b>	8.0 g/L	3.27 g/L	3.27 g/L	3.27 g/L
<b>Dextrose</b>	24.5 g/L	25.5 g/L	51.1 g/L	31.9 g/L
<b>Monobasic Sodium Phosphate</b>	0	2.22 g/L	2.22 g/L	2.22 g/L
<b>Adenine</b>	0	0	0	0.275 g/L
<b>FDA-APPROVED SHELF-LIFE</b>	<b>21 days</b>	<b>21 days</b>	<b>21 days</b>	<b>35 days</b>

Apheresis

Whole Blood



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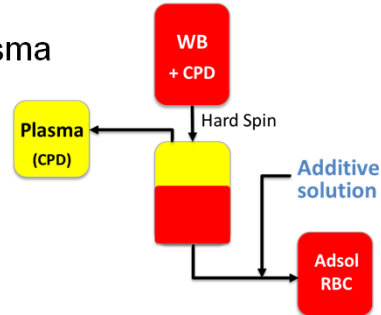


## Additive Solutions (AS) - RBCs

- Added after removal of plasma

### Advantages

- Extend the shelf-life to 42 days
- Harvest more plasma (and platelets) from WB unit
- Lowers viscosity of RBC product (Hct 60%); easier to infuse



### Approved AS in US

- AS-1
- AS-2
- AS-5
- AS-7



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## Common FDA-Approved Additive Solutions: Biochemical Changes

	AS-1 (Adsol)	AS-3 (Nutricel)	AS-5 (Optisol)
<b>FDA approved Shelf-life</b>	<b>42 days</b>	<b>42 days</b>	<b>42 days</b>
24-hour survival (%)*	83	85.1	80
Hemolysis (%)**	0.5	0.7	0.6
pH (measured at 37C)	6.6	6.5	6.5
AP (% of initial)	68	67	68.5
2,3-DPG (% of initial)	6	6	5

Per FDA requirements: \*24-hr survival >75%; \*\*Hemolysis <1%



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Modified from: Harmening DM, Brown MR. Red blood cell and platelet preservation: historical perspectives and current trends. Harmening DM (editor). Modern blood banking & transfusion practices. 7<sup>th</sup> Ed. FA Davis Co. 2019:1-23.

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**In the US most RBC units are  
stored in additive solution (AS-1,  
AS-3, AS-5).....**

**At 1-6°C  
for up to 42 days**



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## Storage Solutions and Requirements by Blood Component

RBCs  
Platelets  
Plasma  
Cryoprecipitate




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## Platelets: 2 types

91% of All Platelets Distributed in US in 2017



Whole-blood derived  
 $\geq 5.5 \times 10^{10}$  platelets in 40-70 mL plasma


Single Donor Apheresis  
 $\geq 3.0 \times 10^{11}$  platelets

 Jones JM, et al. Slowing decline in blood collection and transfusion in the United States – 2017. Transfusion March 2020.

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## Platelets: Anticoagulant-Preservatives

- Apheresis Platelets
  - Collected with ACD-A
- WB-derived platelet
  - Same anticoagulant as for WB collection (e.g. CPD)
- Contain citrate to prevent clotting and maintain proper pH; dextrose as an energy source
- Platelet storage bag: needs to be gas permeable

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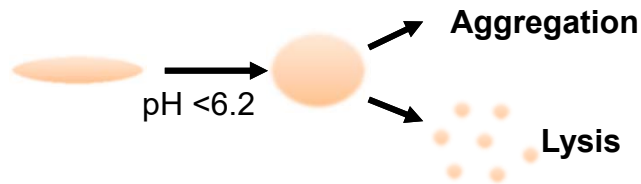
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## Platelet “Storage Lesion”

When O<sub>2</sub> ↓↓...

- ↑ lactic acid, ↓ pH, ↓ ATP
- When pH <6.2 → irreversible shape change



- Lead to ↓ platelet viability and function



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## Platelets - Unique Storage Conditions

- Stored in large flat bags (high surface to volume ratio for better gas exchange)
- Stored with **agitation** to facilitate O<sub>2</sub>-CO<sub>2</sub> gas exchange\*
- Shelf-life of platelets stored at RT (20-24C) is generally only 5 days



*\*FDA allows platelets to be stored without agitation for up to 24 hrs*



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- Platelets can be stored up to 7 days **IF**....
  - Use a container cleared or approved by the FDA for 7-day storage **AND**
  - Individual platelet units are subsequently tested for bacteria using a bacterial detection device cleared by FDA and labeled for use as a “safety measure”.



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## Quality Requirements for Platelet Collection and Storage

### At time of collection:

- Actual platelet yield (platelet count x volume) →  $\geq 3.0 \times 10^{11}$  platelets
- Residual WBC count → 95% of units samples contain  $< 5 \times 10^6$
- Bacterial detection testing (as specified by storage container manufacturer → negative

### At end of storage:

- Actual platelet yield (platelet count x volume) → 90% of samples contain  $\geq 3.0 \times 10^{11}$  platelets
- pH → 90% of units sampled  $\geq 6.2$



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## Platelet Additive Solutions (PAS) for Platelet Storage

- Residual plasma reduced to 1/3 of its original volume
- Advantages:
  - Reduce plasma-associated transfusion reactions (e.g. allergic)
  - Mitigates any adverse event related to transfusion of ABO-incompatible platelets
  - Potentially reduces bacterial contamination/growth
  - Conserves plasma for other purposes
- Results related to improved platelet quality and in vivo survival are mixed



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Alhumaidan H, Sweeney J. Current status of additive solutions for platelets. J Clin Apheresis 2012;27:93-98.

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## Storage Solutions and Requirements by Blood Component

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Plasma  
Cryoprecipitate



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## Frozen Plasma Products

Plasma	Frozen w/in:	Store at:	Exp. from Collection:
FFP	8 hrs @ 1-6C	-18C or colder	12 months
PF24	24 hrs @ 1-6C	-18C or colder	12 months
PF24RT24	24 hrs @ RT	-18C or colder	12 months

FFP = Fresh Frozen Plasma

PF24 = Plasma Frozen within 24 Hrs after phlebotomy

PF24RT24 = Plasma Frozen within 24 Hrs after Phlebotomy Held at Room Temperature up to 24 Hrs after Phlebotomy



Circular of Information for the Use of Human Blood and Blood Components, Revised October 2017

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## Plasma Products

WB-derived

- Same anticoagulant-preservative as used for WB collection
- Majority of anticoagulant-preservative solution from primary WB bag ends up in the plasma

Apheresis

- Collected in ACD-A



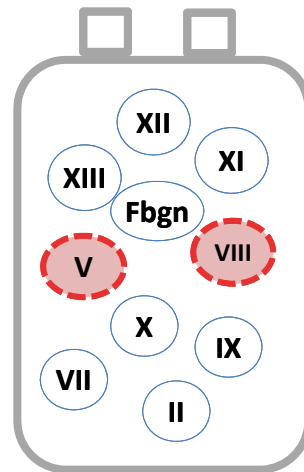
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## Plasma Products

- Source of all clotting factors
- Limiting factor is the stability of certain clotting factors
  - Factor V and VIII are “labile factors”
- Plasma is frozen to -18C or colder within 24 hrs to preserve these factors at clinically effective level



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## Plasma Products

- Temperature – primary storage condition
  - Store at -18C or colder to maintain clotting factor levels
  - Needs to be frozen within time limits based on type of plasma
  - Control of temperature is vital to maintain the shelf-life
- Stored frozen for 12 months from day of collection
- Published studies guide industry changes



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## Preparing Plasma Products for Transfusion

- FFP/PF24/PF24RT24 products considered clinically equivalent
- At hospital: thawed at 30-37C
- Once thawed, 24 hr expiration when stored at 1-6°C
- **All can be converted to Thawed Plasma\*:**
  - Expiration is 5 days from date of thaw
  - Advantages: reduces wastage, more readily available for massively bleeding patients



\*Collected in closed system

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## Liquid Plasma (*Never-frozen plasma*)

- Separated from whole blood and infused no later than 5 days after WB unit expires
  - CPD or CP2D:  $21 + 5 = 26$  days
  - CPDA-1:  $35 + 5 = 40$  days
- Stored at 1-6°C
- Indications: initial treatment of patients with life-threatening massive bleeding




Circular of Information for Use of Human Blood and Blood Components,  
October 2017

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## Storage Solutions and Requirements by Blood Component

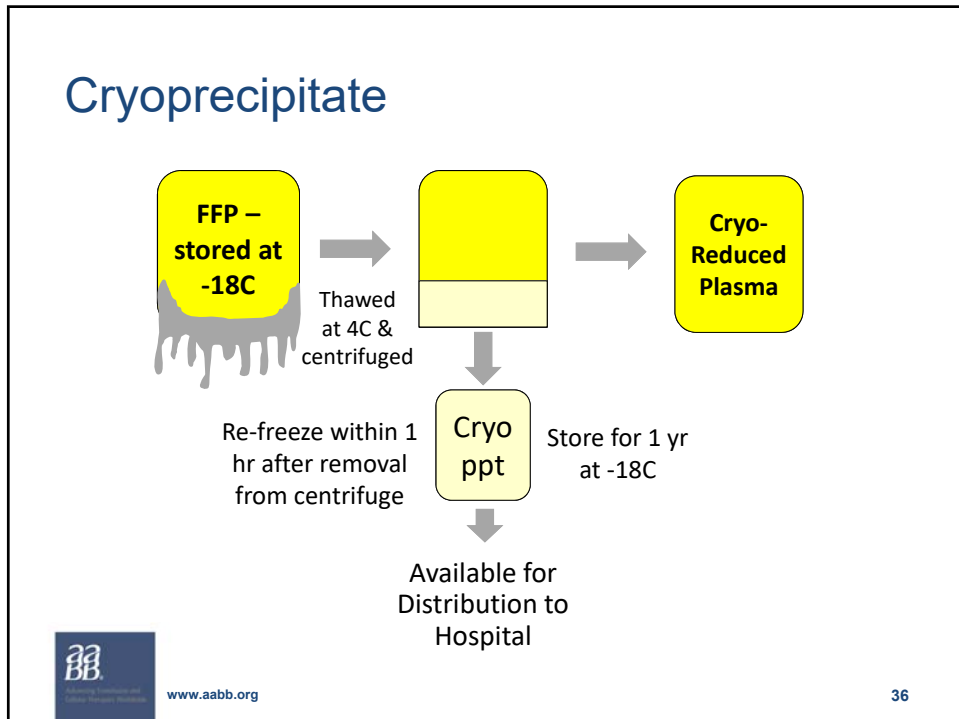
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## Cryoprecipitated AHF

- Source of fibrinogen, FVIII, FXIII, vWF, fibronectin
- At hospital: thawed at 30-37C
- Once thawed: store at RT
- Duration: 6 hrs if closed system (single or pooled); 4 hrs if open system (pooled)
  - FVIII is labile clotting factor & bacterial contamination risk
- Why RT once thawed?
  - If stored at 1-6C, may lead to formation of precipitate (clotting factors)



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## Quality Control Requirements for Cryoprecipitate

- Per single unit
  - Minimum 80 IU Factor VIII
  - Minimum 150 mg Fibrinogen
- For pools (e.g. 5 pool)
  - Minimum 80 IU Factor VIII X # of units in pool (or 400 IU)
  - Minimum 150mg Fibrinogen X # of units in pool (or 750mg)
- Test each month 1% of products manufactured (or minimum of 4)



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## Summary

- Proper storage conditions including optimal storage solutions and ideal temperature results in safe and efficacious products for the patient
- Regulatory requirements are defined for the storage of blood products
- Each “blood component” has unique requirements to provide safe and quality product



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## Summary Table

Component	Temperature	Duration
RBC	1-6°C	42 days
Platelets	20-24°C	5-7days
Plasma (frozen)	-18°C	12 months
Plasma (thawed)	1-6°C	5 days
Cryo (frozen)	-18°C	12 months
Cryo (thawed)	20-24°C	6 hrs*

\*single unit or pooled closed system; if open system, 4 hrs



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Questions?

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