

Prehospital Emergency Care



ISSN: (Print) (Online) Journal homepage: https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/ipec20

The Menegazzi Scientific Sessions: Research Abstracts from the 2023 National Association of EMS Physicians Annual Meeting

To cite this article: (2022): The Menegazzi Scientific Sessions: Research Abstracts from the 2023 National Association of EMS Physicians Annual Meeting, Prehospital Emergency Care, DOI: 10.1080/10903127.2022.2138658

To link to this article: https://doi.org/10.1080/10903127.2022.2138658





173. Prehospital Blood Transfusion during Trauma Resuscitation in a Ground Ambulance Service: A Case Series

Emily Nichols, David Rayburn, Tom Dransfield, Elizabeth Lacy, Juan Duchesne

New Orleans EMS, University Medical Center New Orleans, Tulane University

Background: Hemorrhagic shock remains a leading cause of death in the United States. While several military studies have shown improved mortality after in-field blood transfusion, the results of civilian trials have been mixed. Consequently, EMS agencies have been reluctant to incorporate TCCC guidelines for prehospital transfusion into their

everyday practices. The following case series describes the experience of our paramedics over 8 months after initiating packed red blood cell (pRBC) transfusion during trauma resuscitation.

Methods: A retrospective review of prehospital and hospital records from October 2021 through June 2022 was performed on 51 patients. Items analyzed include demographic characteristics, response intervals, volume of pRBCs administered, time to transfusion, transport interval, rate of transfusion reactions, and 72 hour mortality rate.

Results: Clinicians administered prehospital blood products to 43 males and 8 females with an average of 36.1 years of age. Forty seven patients (92%) had sustained penetrating injuries. Paramedics initiated blood transfusion on average 24.3 minutes after the PSAP call was received. A total of 1.8 units (536 ml) of pRBCs were administered in less than 10 minutes. Scene interval was 8.5 minutes and ground transport interval was 10.3 minutes to the Level I trauma center (average mileage = 6.4 mi). Total time on task per patient was 34.4 minutes. Zero transfusion reactions were observed in 51 patients. After 72 hours of hospitalization, mortality was 35% within this series-29% of individuals expired in the ED. Excluding cases that developed cardiac arrest in the prehospital setting (15/51), 92% of patients who maintained spontaneous circulation prior to hospital arrival were alive at 72 hours (33/51). Discussion: Preliminary outcomes within this case series suggest an advantage to prehospital blood transfusion amongst a subset of EMS patients. For individuals with hemorrhagic shock secondary to penetrating injury, our agency has shown that transfusion during ground transport is not only feasible but also potentially life-saving. More rigorous analysis is needed to prove the benefit of this intervention. Meanwhile, our case series advances the literature by proposing that short transport intervals and rapid pRBC transfusion may improve mortality within a fast-paced urban environment.