

# International survey on practices to protect iron stores in donors

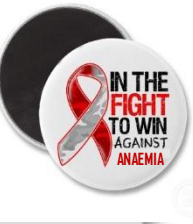


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# Questionnaire



1. In your country, what are the **measures** taken **to protect donors** against iron deficiency ? Pre- and post-donation ?
2. In your country, what are the **laboratory tests** to check iron balance in blood donors ?
3. In your country, what are the **actions** / **the standard practice** with blood donors who have low iron reserve or who are iron depleted ?
4. In your country, are you giving **iron substitution** to blood donors who have low iron reserve or are iron-depleted ?



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# Participants

23 questionnaires returned , coming from :

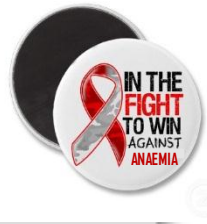
<b>Brazil</b>	<b>Luxemburg</b>	<b>South Africa</b>
<b>Canada</b>	<b>Namibia</b>	<b>Spain</b>
<b>Croatia</b>	<b>Netherlands</b>	<b>Sweden</b>
<b>Denmark</b>	<b>New Zealand</b>	<b>Switzerland</b>
<b>Finland</b>	<b>Norway</b>	<b>USA</b>
<b>Greece</b>	<b>Portugal</b>	<b>and</b>
<b>Italy</b>	<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	<b>Belgium – Flamish</b>
<b>Japan</b>	<b>Slovenia</b>	<b>Belgium - French</b>



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**Preliminary results !**

# 1. What are the measures taken to protect blood donors against iron deficiency ?



Pre-donation ↔ Post-donation

Hb (Hct) determination before blood donation (18) :

- Systematically (16)
- In selected donors (2)

Check of Hb level of previous donation (7)

Clinical signs of anaemia (2)

Anamnesis (3)



# 1. What are the measures taken to protect blood donors against iron deficiency ?



Pre-donation  $\longleftrightarrow$  Post-donation

Hb threshold (incomplete data)

In females :

- 12,5 g/dL (10 answers)

In males:

- 13,5 g/dL (6 + 1 in some centers)
- 12,5 g/dL (3 + 1 in some centers)



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# 1. What are the measures taken to protect blood donors against iron deficiency ?



Pre-donation ↔ Post-donation

**PRE - Tailoring blood component donation and/or frequency (11) :**

- Following physical and/or hematological results or iron stores (5)
- By law (6)

**POST – Temporary deferral (see later)**

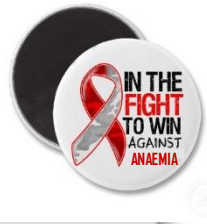
**Ferritin measurements (see later)**



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# 1. What are the measures taken to protect blood donors against iron deficiency ?



Pre-donation  $\longleftrightarrow$  Post-donation

Dietary recommendations (6)

Information sheet (7)

Information on website (2)

Iron supplementation (see later)



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## 2. What are the laboratory tests to check iron balance in blood donors ?



### SYSTEMATIC

Nothing more than Hb (14)

Complete haemogram (7)

Ferritin (2)

Ongoing, not yet defined (1)

### SPORADIC

No further test in the BTC (→ GP / clinic) (14)

Complete haemogram (3)

Ferritin (5)

Other tests → iron balance (iron, transferrin saturation, transferrin receptor,...) (3)



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### 3. What are the actions with donors with low iron reserve or AIS ? DECISIONS and COUNSELING

Nothing special (2) or under study (1)

Deferral (20) : delay

- « Low iron stores » : at least 3 months (7) or 6 months (4)
- « iron-deficiency erythropoiesis » : at least 6 months (9)
- Not precised (2)

Preventive iron supplementation (3)

Moving to aphaeresis procedure (4)



NB. One country has a special data of blood donors with iron deficiency (registry)

## 4. Do you give iron substitution to blood donors with low iron reserve or AIS ?



Yes : 10 - No : 13 (12+1 still under study)

What ? *(sometimes more than one formulation per country)*

- ✓ Sulphate (8)
- ✓ Glycin-sulphate complex (3)
- ✓ Gluconate (3)
- ✓ Fumarate (1)
- ✓ Carbonyl (1)



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## 4. Do you give iron substitution to blood donors with low iron reserve or AIS ?



How ?

- ✓ Pills directly given at the BTS (8)  
*Sometimes sent by post (3)*
- ✓ Through medical prescription (3)

When ?

- During donation or at least before next donation : all
  - But systematically (women, frequent donors) : 3
  - Sometimes at next donation (1)



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## 5. General comments and recommendations

One country mentioned the impact of previous study →  $\searrow$  frequency of blood donation in women

In 4 BTS, a study is planned about

- Screening tests and iron supplementation (2)
- Predonation Hb measurement in « at-risk » donors (1)
- Comparison between iron supplementation and intensive dietary advice (1)

Database, registry → iron-depleted blood donors



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## Suggestion

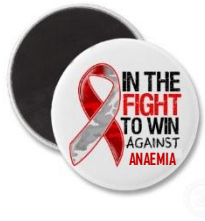
# Preliminary results !

- Re-focused questionnaire
- more accurate evaluation and comparison
- publication



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