

13 CONVALESCENT PLASMA THERAPY

Guo Yanhong, an official with the National Health Commission (NHC), stated that convalescent plasma therapy is a significant method for treating severe COVID-19 patients. Among the COVID-19 patients currently receiving convalescent plasma therapy in the virus-hit Wuhan, one has been discharged from hospital, as reported by Chinese science authorities on Monday, 17th February 2020 in Beijing. The first dose of convalescent plasma from a COVID-19 patient was collected on 1st and 9th February 2020 from a severely ill patient who was given treatment at a hospital in Jiangxia District in Wuhan. The presence of the virus in patients is minimized by the antibodies in the convalescent plasma. Guiqiang stated that the donating plasma may cause minimal harm to the donor and that there is nothing to be worried about. Plasma donors must be cured patients and discharged from hospital. Only plasma is used, whereas red blood cells (RBC), white blood cells (WBC) and blood platelets are transfused back into the donor's blood. Wang alleged that donor's plasma will totally improve to its initial state after one or two weeks from the day of plasma donation of around 200 to 300 milliliters.⁶¹