

Autologous whole plasma fibrin gel: Intraoperative procurement.

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Abstract:

Fibrin glue is a relatively recent addition to the armamentarium of hemostatic agents for surgical use. Its efficacy has been repeatedly demonstrated in almost all surgical disciplines and subspecialties. Its use in the United States has been limited because of the risk of viral transmission associated with the use of human plasma. Previous authors have described techniques that limit this risk, but they are frequently impractical, expensive, or cumbersome. We describe the use of patients' own fresh plasma to make fibrin gel at the operative field. It provided hemostasis at least as good as that from heterologous plasma glue in 40 cardiac surgical patients. Autologous whole plasma fibrin gel is inexpensive and safe and eliminates the risk of viral transmission associated with glue derived from heterologous donor plasma.