Transfusion Therapy Discussion Questions

Red Blood Cells:

1. **In what situation would whole blood be transfused to a patient?**

2. **Why must whole blood transfusions be ABO identical?**

3. **What hemoglobin level indicates that transfusion of red cells may be necessary?**

4. **By how much will one unit of red cells increase the hemoglobin and hematocrit?**

5. **List the clinical indications for a red cell transfusion.**

6. **What symptoms may a patient have that indicates they may need a red cell transfusion?**

7. **An individual who is type A can receive what types of red cells?**

8. **An individual who is type AB can receive what types of red cells?**

9. **What is a red cell exchange transfusion?**

10. **What patient population commonly receives red cell exchange transfusions?**

11. **How does intraoperative blood salvage work?**

Plasma:

1. **What are the PT and APTT levels that indicate a plasma transfusion may be necessary?**

2. **What clinical diseases or situations could require a plasma transfusion?**

3. **If a patient is type O, what type plasma products can they receive?**

4. **If a patient is type B, what type plasma products can they receive?**

5. **Is the Rh of the donor and patient important when transfusing plasma products?**

6. **What is a plasma exchange?**

7. **What are some common clinical indications for a plasma exchange?**

Platelets:

1. **Given the following patient's histories, at what platelet level should they be transfused platelets?**
    a. **Bleeding with DIC**

    b. **Chemotherapy**

c. **Cardiac bypass**

d. **Massive transfusion**

2. **If ABO matched platelets are unavailable, is it better to transfuse platelets that are red cell compatible or plasma compatible?**

3. **Does the Rh of the platelet matter during transfusion? Why or why not?**

4. **What are signs and symptoms of low platelet counts that could indicate transfusion of platelets is needed?**

Cryoprecipitate:

1. **List clinical indications that would suggest transfusing cryoprecipitate.**

2. **What is the main use of cryoprecipitate transfusion?**

3. **What is considered one adult dose of cryoprecipitate?**

4. **When transfusing cryoprecipitate, should it be red cell ABO compatible or plasma ABO compatible? Why?**

Granulocytes:

1. **List the clinical indications for a granulocyte transfusion?**

2. **What is the dosage for transfusing granulocytes?**

3. **When transfusing a granulocyte, should it be red cell ABO compatible or plasma ABO compatible? Why?**

Special Transfusion Situations:

1. **In the case of an emergent transfusion where no blood type is available, what RBC type should be given to the patient?**

2. **In the case of an emergent transfusion where no blood type is available, what FFP type should be given to the patient?**

3. **What blood type should be given for a red cell neonatal transfusion?**

4. **What modifications should be performed on the red cells for a neonatal transfusion?**

5. **Why are units used for neonatal transfusion <7 days old?**

6. **What speed of transfusion is considered a massive transfusion?**

7. **What is the strategy for transfusing blood in a massive transfusion situation?**

8. **What are some common causes of massive transfusion?**

9. **What are complications of massive transfusion?**

10. **Why are sickle cell patients often give phenotypically antigen matched RBC units?**

11. **Why do oncology patients require RBC and platelet transfusions more often?**

12. **What is cytapheresis?**

13. **When is leukaphersis used?**

14. **When is plateletpheresis used?**

15. **What is extracorporeal photopheresis and for what patients is used?**

16. **What is selective adsorption?**

17. **What are examples of how selective adsorption is used?**

Blood Product Administration:

1. **How long can red cell products be out of storage and still be acceptable for use?**

2. **With what product should red cells be transfused?**

3. **Within what period of time must a unit of blood be transfused?**

4. **What verifications must be performed at the bedside before blood is administered?**