

Cell Salvage

Allogeneic blood is a valuable but limited resource and, although potentially life-saving, is not without risks e.g. wrong blood incidents, transmission of infection and immunosuppression. Concerns over possible future blood shortages have resulted in increased efforts to manage the blood supply more effectively. This includes efforts to increase the supply and to reduce the demand for blood.

Intraoperative cell salvage is the most commonly used means of autologous transfusion. It was first suggested as early as 1874 with the first reported use in 1886. However it wasn't really until the 1960s that technical advances allowed the development of dedicated intraoperative cell salvage devices. The principles of cell salvage will be described and potential issues discussed. Descriptions of how and where it should be used will be given along with the rationale for its use as an integral part of the overall strategy to reduce red cell usage and avoid transfusion in a patient blood management program.

UKCSAG

<http://www.transfusionsguidelines.org.uk/transfusion-practice/uk-cell-salvage-action-group>

<http://www.learnbloodtransfusion.org.uk/>