



**COMBAT MEDIC/  
CORPSMAN**



# TACTICAL COMBAT CASUALTY CARE COURSE

MODULE 11:  
HEMORRHAGIC SHOCK FLUID RESUSCITATION  
IN TACTICAL FIELD CARE (TFC)



Committee on  
Tactical Combat  
Casualty Care  
(CoTCCC)

**TCCC** TIER 1  
All Service Members

**TCCC** TIER 2  
Combat Lifesaver

**TCCC** TIER 3  
Combat Medic/Corpsman

**TCCC** TIER 4  
Combat Paramedic/Provider

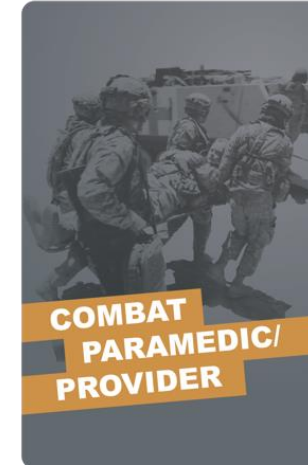
## TACTICAL COMBAT CASUALTY CARE (TCCC) ROLE-BASED TRAINING SPECTRUM

### ROLE 1 CARE

#### NONMEDICAL PERSONNEL



#### MEDICAL PERSONNEL



◀ **YOU ARE HERE**

STANDARDIZED JOINT CURRICULUM

## 1 x **TERMINAL LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

### **14** Given a combat or noncombat scenario, perform fluid resuscitation as part of the management of hemorrhagic shock on a trauma casualty during Tactical Field Care in accordance with CoTCCC Guidelines.

- 14.1 Identify progressive strategies, indications, and limitations of fluid resuscitation for hemorrhagic shock in Tactical Field Care.
- 14.2 Identify appropriate fluid resuscitation techniques to prevent or treat hemorrhagic shock in Tactical Field Care.
- 14.3 Identify the importance and advantages of early use of blood products in Tactical Field Care.
- 14.4 Identify the indications, contraindications, and administration methods of low-titer group O whole blood in Tactical Field Care.
- 14.5 Identify the considerations, indications, contraindications, and administration methods of fresh whole blood in Tactical Field Care.
- 14.6 Identify the indications, contraindications, and administration methods of plasma in Tactical Field Care.
- 14.7 Identify the indications, contraindications, and administration methods of packed red blood cells in Tactical Field Care.
- ⊘ 14.8 Demonstrate administration of blood products to a trauma casualty in Tactical Field Care.
  - a. EldonCard®
  - b. Donor blood product collection
  - c. Administration of blood products
- 14.9 Identify the signs, symptoms, considerations, and treatment strategies of blood transfusion complications.

## 9 x **ENABLING LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

# MARCH PAWS

## LIFE-THREATENING

- M** MASSIVE BLEEDING  
#1 Priority
- A** AIRWAY
- R** RESPIRATION (*Breathing*)
- ▶ **C** CIRCULATION
- H** HYPOTHERMIA /  
HEAD INJURIES

## AFTER LIFE-THREATENING

- P** PAIN
- A** ANTIBIOTICS
- W** WOUNDS
- S** SPLINTING

# INTRO TO FLUID RESUSCITATION FOR SHOCK

**Fluid resuscitation** based on civilian guidelines

- Crystalloids
- Colloids

1990s-2000s

**TCCC Guidelines** include blood products for CASEVAC

2003-2006

**Crystalloids, Hextend® and PLASMA-LYTE A** de-prioritized to be used only if blood products are not available

2014

**FDA Emergency Use Authorization** for freeze-dried plasma in shock

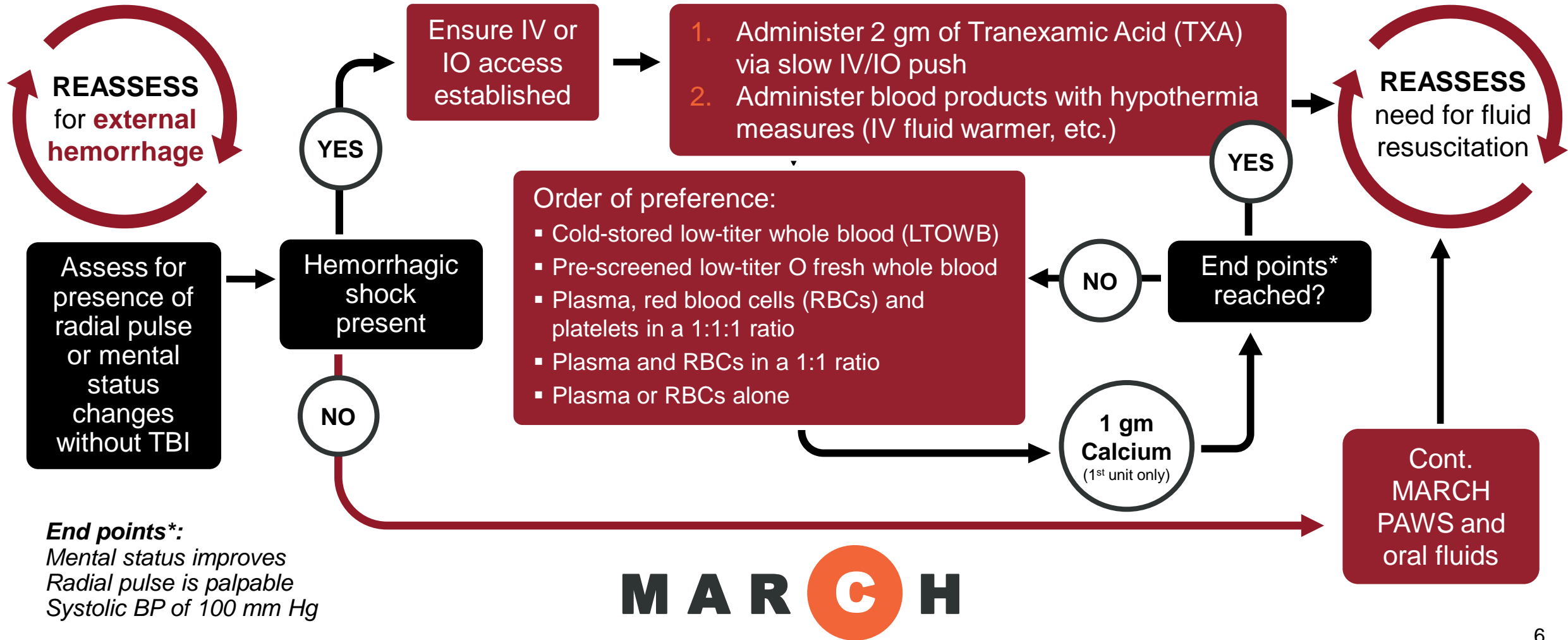
2018

**Updated guidelines** emphasize cold-stored or fresh whole blood, other fluids not recommended for hemorrhagic shock

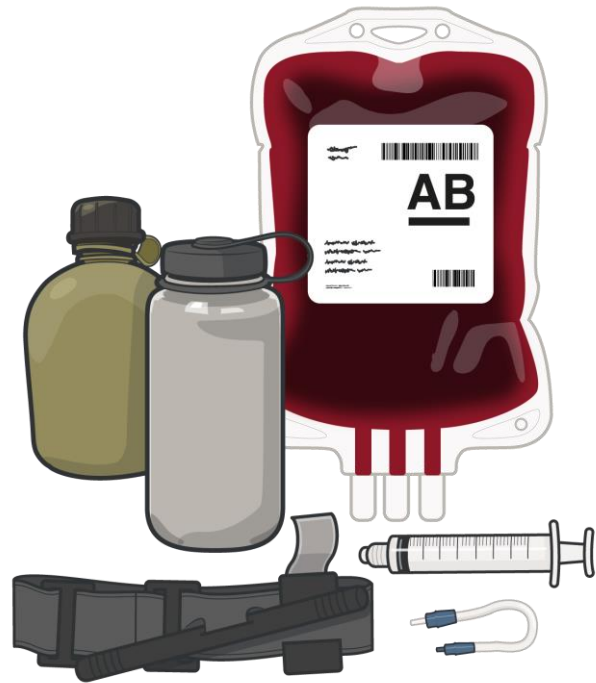
2020

**MARCH**

# PROGRESSIVE STRATEGIES FOR FLUID RESUSCITATION IN HEMORRHAGIC SHOCK



# TECHNIQUES FOR PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF HEMORRHAGIC SHOCK



Oral rehydration, if the casualty can swallow, is appropriate and recommended

- Dehydration is a risk during treatment and evacuation

- Risk of emesis and aspiration is very low

*Consider placing saline lock, if tactically feasible*

**Fluid selection priorities are:**

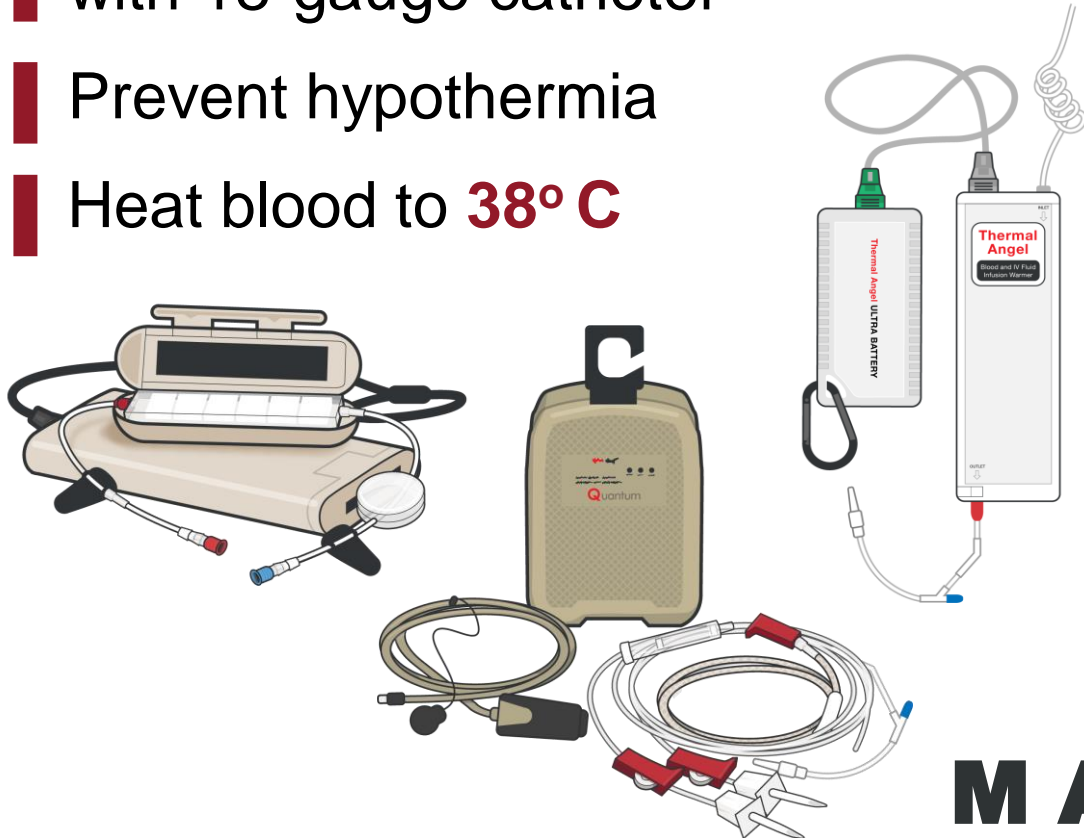
- Cold-stored low-titer O whole blood
- Pre-screened low-titer O fresh whole blood
- Plasma, red blood cells (RBCs) and platelets in a **1:1:1 ratio**
- Plasma and RBCs in a **1:1 ratio**
- Plasma or RBCs alone



Best prevention of hemorrhagic shock is **control** of all sources of **bleeding**

# APPROPRIATE TECHNIQUES FOR TREATMENT OF HEMORRHAGIC SHOCK

- Establish IV or IO access with 18-gauge catheter
- Prevent hypothermia
- Heat blood to **38° C**



Gather blood products for transfusion:



Cold-stored whole blood



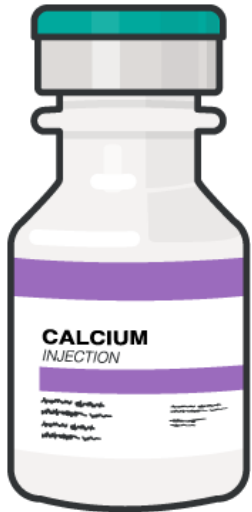
Fresh blood collected in the field



Plasma, RBCs, platelets

MARCH

# APPROPRIATE TECHNIQUES FOR TREATMENT OF HEMORRHAGIC SHOCK (CONT.)



**RISK OF HYPOCALCEMIA**  
from citrate binding to  
endogenous calcium

Replace with **1 gm Ca++**



**REASSESS** after every transfusion  
of a unit of blood products

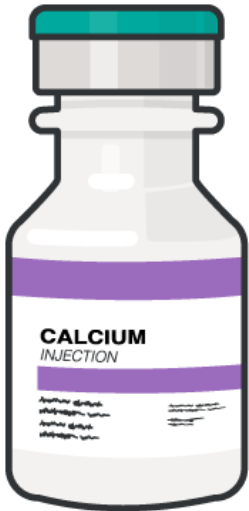
End points for **fluid resuscitation**:

- A palpable radial pulse
- Improved mental status
- Systolic BP of 100 mm Hg

More is **not necessarily** better

- Potential for clot disruption from higher pressures
- Blood products are a valuable resource to conserve, when possible

# CALCIUM ADMINISTRATION



## DOSAGE(S):

- Calcium 1 gm IV daily

## ROUTE(S):

- *Calcium is available in IV or IO form*

## INDICATIONS:

- For use after blood product transfusions

## CONTRAINDICATIONS:

- Ventricular fibrillation
- Hypercalcemia
- Hypophosphatemia
- Renal calculi

## *Use cautiously in:*

- Digitalized patients
- Patients with sarcoidosis
- Renal or cardiac disease
- Respiratory acidosis
- Respiratory failure potential

# CALCIUM

## ADMINISTRATION cont.

### POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS:

Tingling sensations, headache, irritability, weakness, syncope with rapid IV injection, mild decrease in blood pressure, vasodilation, bradycardia, arrhythmias, rebound hyperacidity, nausea polyuria, renal calculi, hypercalcemia, and local reactions

### DRUG INTERACTIONS:

Decreased bioavailability with atenolol, fluoroquinolones and tetracyclines, calcium channel blockers decrease calcium effectiveness, cardiac glycosides increase digitalis toxicity, thiazide diuretics cause a risk of hypercalcemia

### ONSET/PEAK/DURATION:

Immediate/immediate/1-2 hr

### TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Administer one gram of calcium as either 30 ml of 10% calcium gluconate or 10 ml of 10% calcium chloride; immediately after the first transfused blood product. Monitor calcium chloride infusion closely as severe necrosis and skin sloughing can occur if peripheral IV extravasates.

# IMPORTANCE AND ADVANTAGES OF **EARLY USE OF BLOOD** PRODUCTS

502 U.S. military combat casualties in Afghanistan (2012-2015):  
*Time to initial blood product transfusion associated with **reduced** 24-hour and 30-day **mortality***

Ensure processes to move  
**cold-stored LTOWB**

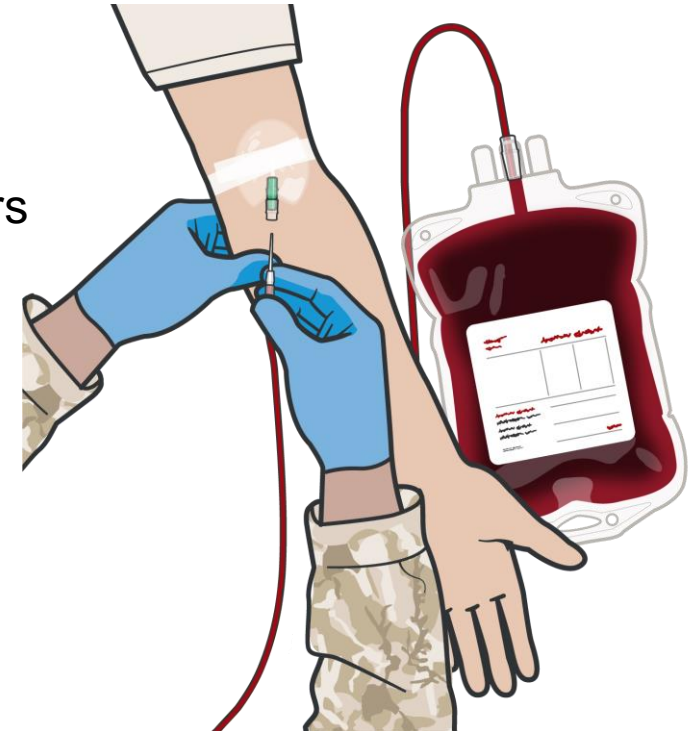
Electric-powered coolers  
at distribution sites

Battery-operated  
containers for  
field use



Prepare alternate to  
**cold-stored LTOWB**

Prescreen unit members  
for potential donors

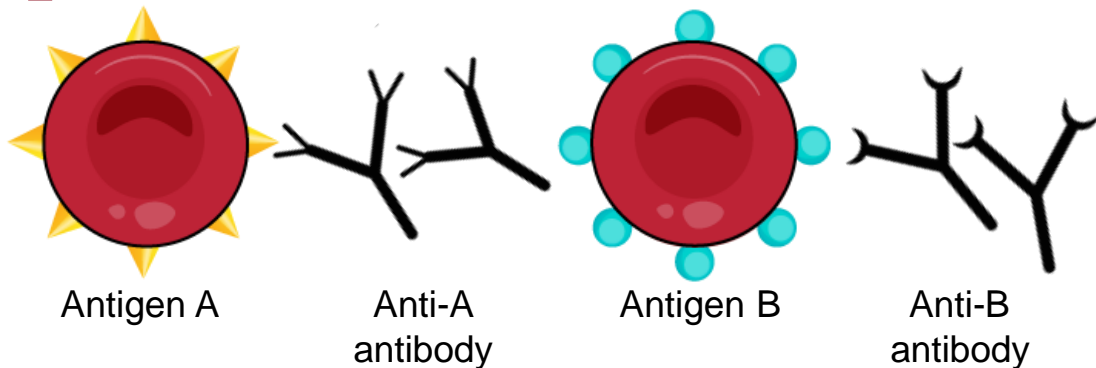


# INDICATIONS AND ADVANTAGES OF USING LOW-TITER GROUP O WHOLE BLOOD

The preferred fluid for hemorrhagic shock resuscitation is **cold-stored low-titer O whole blood (LTOWB)**

Low-titer type O whole blood

- Titers refer to **anti-A/anti-B** in plasma
- WWII experience was mild reactions with titers **>512**
- Current threshold for low titer **<256**



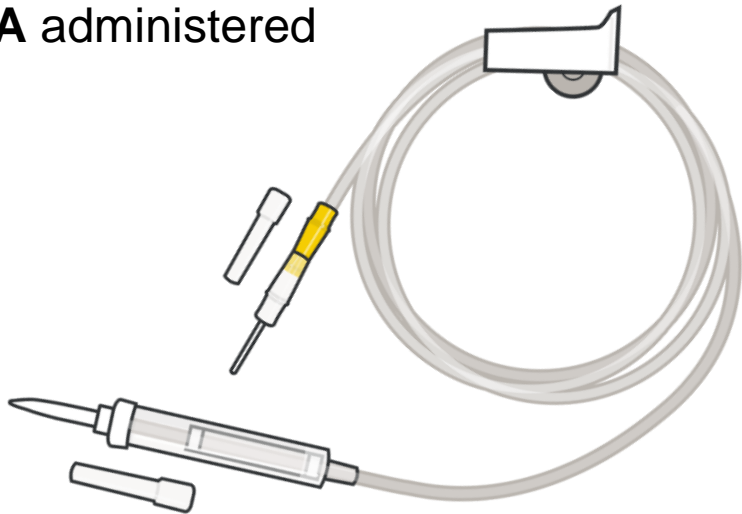
Advantages of **cold-stored LTOWB**:

- Tested for diseases (FDA requirement)
- Titers and leukocyte reduction
- Ready for immediate transfusion
- Whole blood better than three-component replacement in at least one study

# METHODS OF TRANSFUSING LOW-TITER GROUP O WHOLE BLOOD

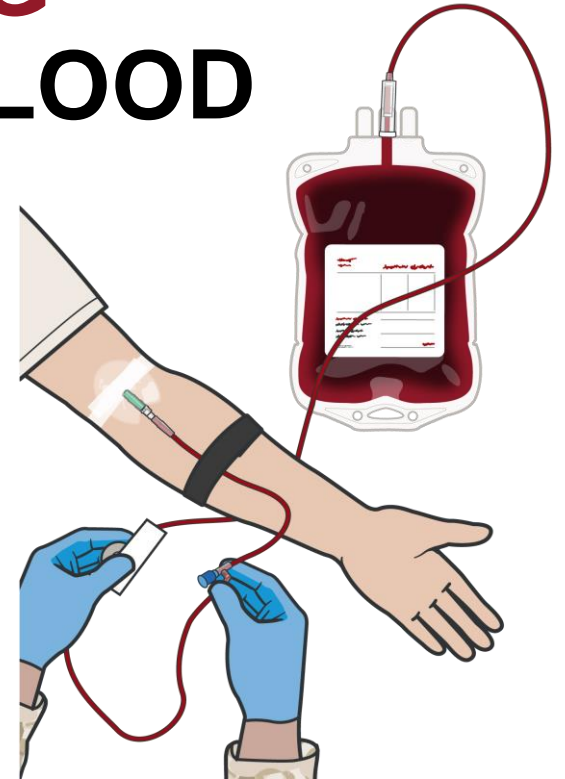
Prior to fluid resuscitation ensure:

- **External Hemorrhage** is controlled
- **IV or IO** line with fluid is in place and functioning properly
- **TXA** administered



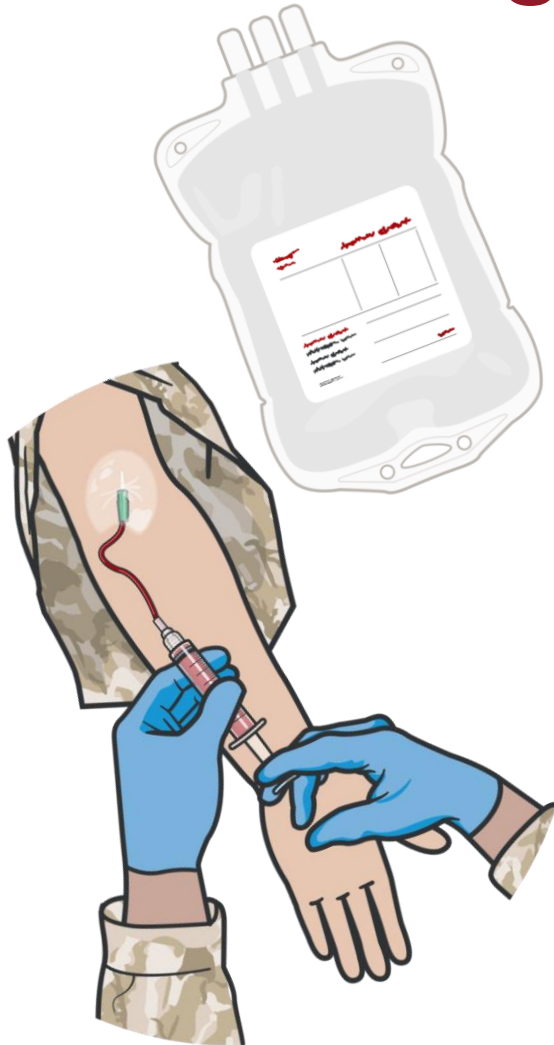
Begin transfusion within **5 min** of starting the process

- Administer **1 gm of calcium** after the first unit
- Assess for and treat blood transfusion reactions:
  - **Anaphylactic reaction**  
(hives, itching, stridor/shortness of breath, and/or hypotension)
  - **Acute hemolytic reaction**  
(arm pain, chest pain, back pain, nausea, disseminated intravascular coagulation, and/or fever)



Blood filters remove small clots that develop during collection and storage

# INDICATIONS AND METHODS OF USING FRESH WHOLE BLOOD



If cold-stored **LTOWB** is not available, utilize **Pre-screened low titer O fresh whole blood**

Ideally, fresh whole blood donors are pre-screened

- Known low titers
- No transmissible diseases
- Could be group-specific (A-A, B-B), although up to 4% inaccuracy

## POSSIBLE ADVANTAGES

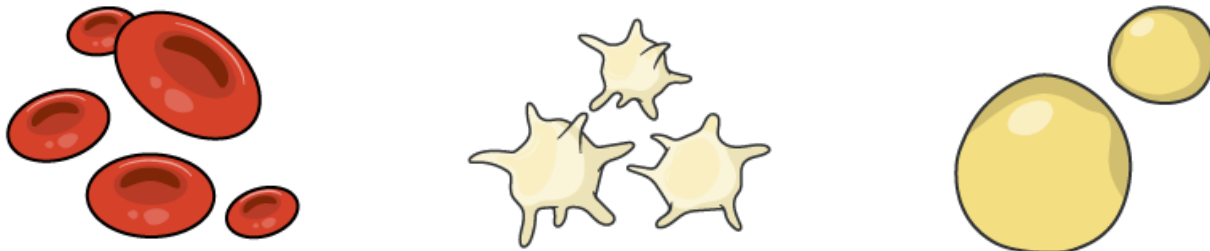
- Availability even when cold chain is not in place (or cold stores exhausted)
- Degree of hypothermia during transfusion may be less than cold-stored LTOWB

## POTENTIAL ISSUES

- Time to collect blood may delay transfusion
- Unit members unavailable while donating

# INDICATIONS AND METHODS OF USING RED BLOOD CELLS

In the absence of whole blood, either cold-stored or fresh, packed **red blood cells (RBCs)**, **platelets** and **plasma** in a **1:1:1 ratio** should be used



1 part **RBCs** : 1 part **platelets** : 1 part **plasma**

*If three component therapy isn't available, then:*

**Plasma and RBCs in a 1:1 ratio**

*if unavailable then:*

**Plasma or RBC's alone**



Separate blood components have **different active shelf-lives**

## Platelets

5 days room temp, 15 days refrigerated

## Plasma

40 days frozen, 5 days thawed

## RBCs

35-42 days refrigerated, depending on preservative

# TRANSFUSION COMPLICATION IDENTIFICATION AND MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Monitor all transfusions for complication and adverse reactions:

## Anaphylaxis – **life-threatening** allergic reaction

*Stridor/SOB*

*Hypotension*

*Early signs – hives, itching*

## STOP TRANSFUSION

- Initiate NS or LR infusion
- 0.3 mg of 1:1000 epinephrine IM
- 25 mg of diphenhydramine IM or slow IV push
- If available, consider 10-40 mg methylprednisolone slow IV push



## Acute hemolysis – **rupture** of RBCs

*Flank, chest, arm or back pain*

*Fever*

*Disseminated intravascular coagulation*

*Early sign – nausea*

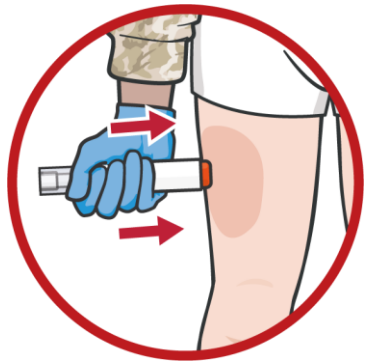
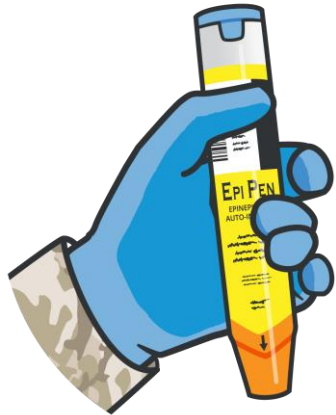
## STOP TRANSFUSION

- Initiate NS or LR infusion
- 25 mg of diphenhydramine IM or slow IV push



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# EPINEPHRINE ADMINISTRATION



## DOSAGE(S):

0.3 mg (1:1000 solution),  
repeated every 5 to 10 minutes  
as necessary

## ROUTE(S):

*IM or subcutaneous*

## INDICATIONS:

Emergency treatment of  
anaphylaxis or allergic reactions.

## CONTRAINDICATIONS:

None

## POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS:

Anxiety, restlessness, tremor, weakness,  
dizziness, sweating, palpitations, pallor,  
nausea and vomiting, headache,  
disorientation, and tachycardia

# EPINEPHRINE ADMINISTRATION cont.

## DRUG INTERACTIONS:

Antihypertensives reduce the pressor effects of epinephrine, thyroid hormones, antihistamines and some anti-arrhythmic medications increase its arrhythmogenic effects

## ONSET/PEAK/DURATION:

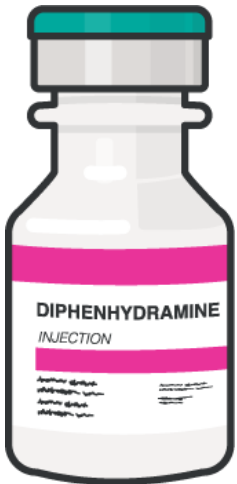
15-30 sec (IM<subcutaneous)/  
20 sec to 4 min/5-10 min

## TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Standard EpiPens® deliver the recommended 0.3 mg IM dose

Casualties in hemorrhagic shock have poor tissue perfusion to their extremities reducing the delivery of epinephrine; use large muscle groups closest to the torso (in order of preference: thigh > deltoid > gluteal).

# DIPHENHYDRAMINE ADMINISTRATION



## DOSAGE(S):

25 mg initial dose, may consider 50 mg based on clinical situation; repeat q 4-6 hr prn; max daily dose 300 mg

## ROUTE(S):

*IM, IO & IV*

## INDICATIONS:

Emergency treatment of anaphylaxis or allergic reactions

## CONTRAINDICATIONS:

Documented hypersensitivity to diphenhydramine, breastfeeding mothers, use in pregnancy if clearly needed

## POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS:

Sedation/somnolence/sleepiness, drowsiness, unsteadiness, dizziness, headache, rare extrapyramidal effects, tremor, or convulsions

# DIPHENHYDRAMINE ADMINISTRATION cont.

## DRUG INTERACTIONS:

Accentuates effects of other medications that cause drowsiness or decreased level of consciousness (sedatives, hypnotics)

## ONSET/PEAK/DURATION:

10 sec-20 min (IV<IO<IM)/  
15 min-2 hr/2-6 hr

## TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS:

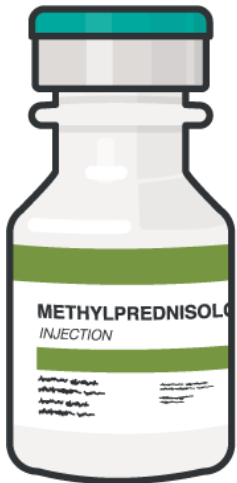
There is no evidence to support H1-antihistamines alone in emergency management of anaphylaxis – diphenhydramine should only be used as an adjunct to epinephrine during anaphylaxis management; the slower onset and longer duration may help sustain effects of successful treatment.

Useful for minor reactions that are not life-threatening

Casualty weapons, communications, and sensitive equipment should be secured.



# METHYLPREDNISOLONE ADMINISTRATION



## DOSAGE(S):

■ 10-40 mg

## ROUTE(S):

■ *Slow IV or IO push  
(over one minute)*

## INDICATIONS:

■ Blood product transfusion  
anaphylactic reaction

## CONTRAINDICATIONS:

■ Systemic fungal infections and known hypersensitivity (prior allergic reaction); potential benefits may warrant use in pregnant women despite potential risks if the alternative is worse

## POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS:

■ Sodium retention, fluid retention, potassium depletion, hyperglycemia, increased liver function tests, muscle weakness, impaired sweating, pancreatitis, esophagitis, urticaria or allergic reactions

# METHYLPREDNISOLONE ADMINISTRATION cont.

## DRUG INTERACTIONS:

■ Accentuates effects of other medications that cause drowsiness or decreased level of consciousness (sedatives, hypnotics)

## ONSET/PEAK/DURATION:

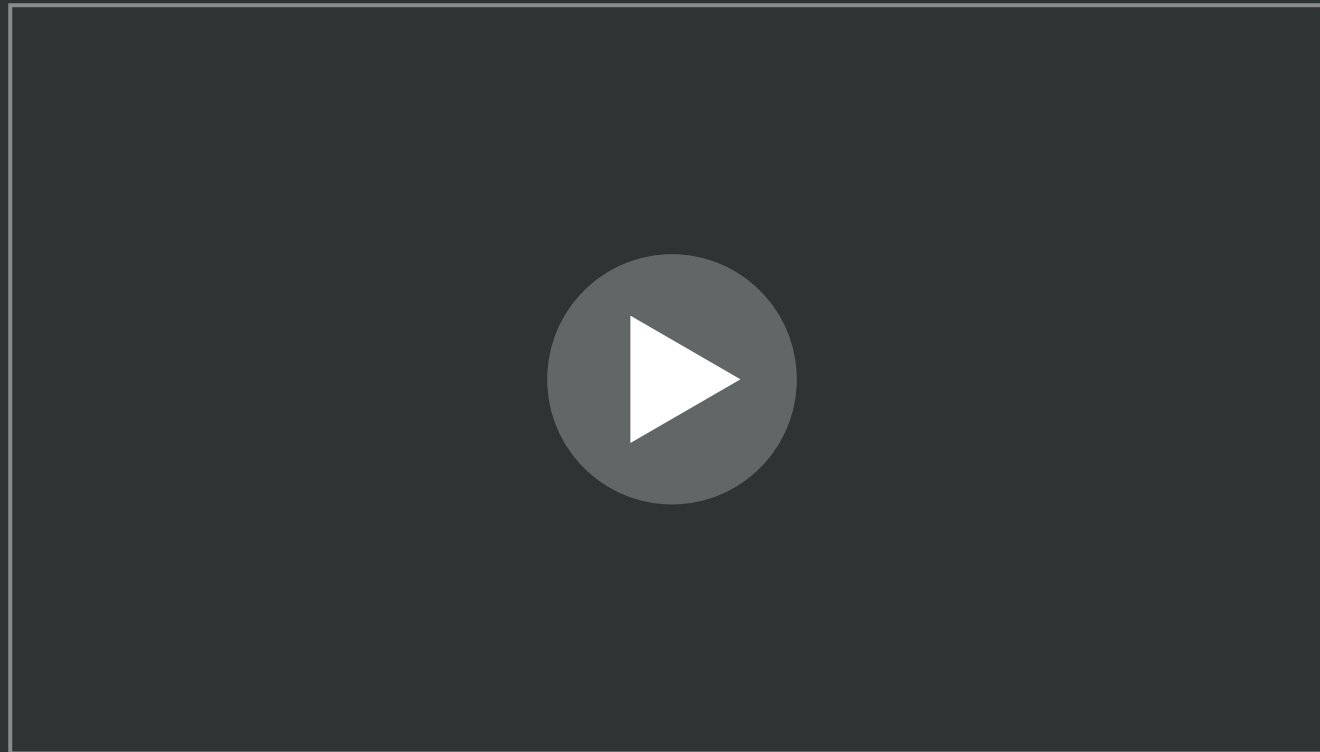
■ Immediate/1-2 min/1 hr

## TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS:

■ Administer 10-40 mg IV or IO, after first administering epinephrine and diphenhydramine, when treating an anaphylactic reaction from a blood product transfusion.



# ADMINISTRATION OF BLOOD PRODUCTS IN TACTICAL FIELD CARE



*Video can be found on [deployedmedicine.com](https://deployedmedicine.com)*

# INDICATIONS AND METHODS OF USING PLASMA

## Freeze-dried plasma (FDP)

- Developed in 1930s
- Used in WWII and Korea
- Stopped because of disease transmission
- Continued by other nations
- Rekindled interest by US military due to problems with access to whole blood at battlefield
- Approved for use in hemorrhagic shock in recent years

## PLASMA

- Provides fibrinogen and hemostatic factors
- Although best with other blood products, can be used alone
- **FDP** stored without refrigeration and carried by Combat Medics
- **FDP** reconstituted in vials must be administered through vented tubing, but with collapsible bags standard blood tubing can be used



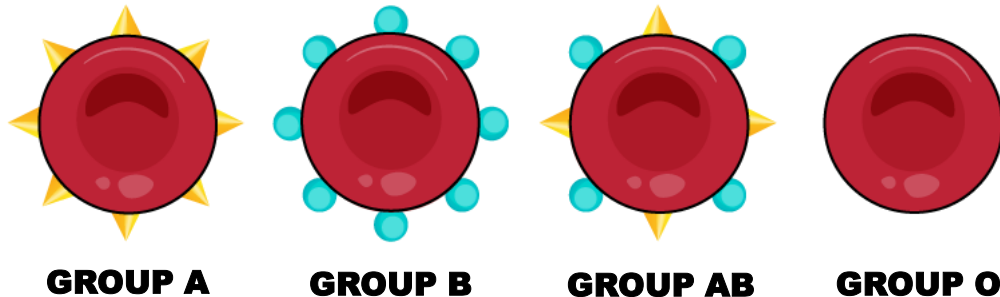
# BLOOD TYPING

Surface markers (antigens) determine blood groups/types

A & B antigens determine ABO status

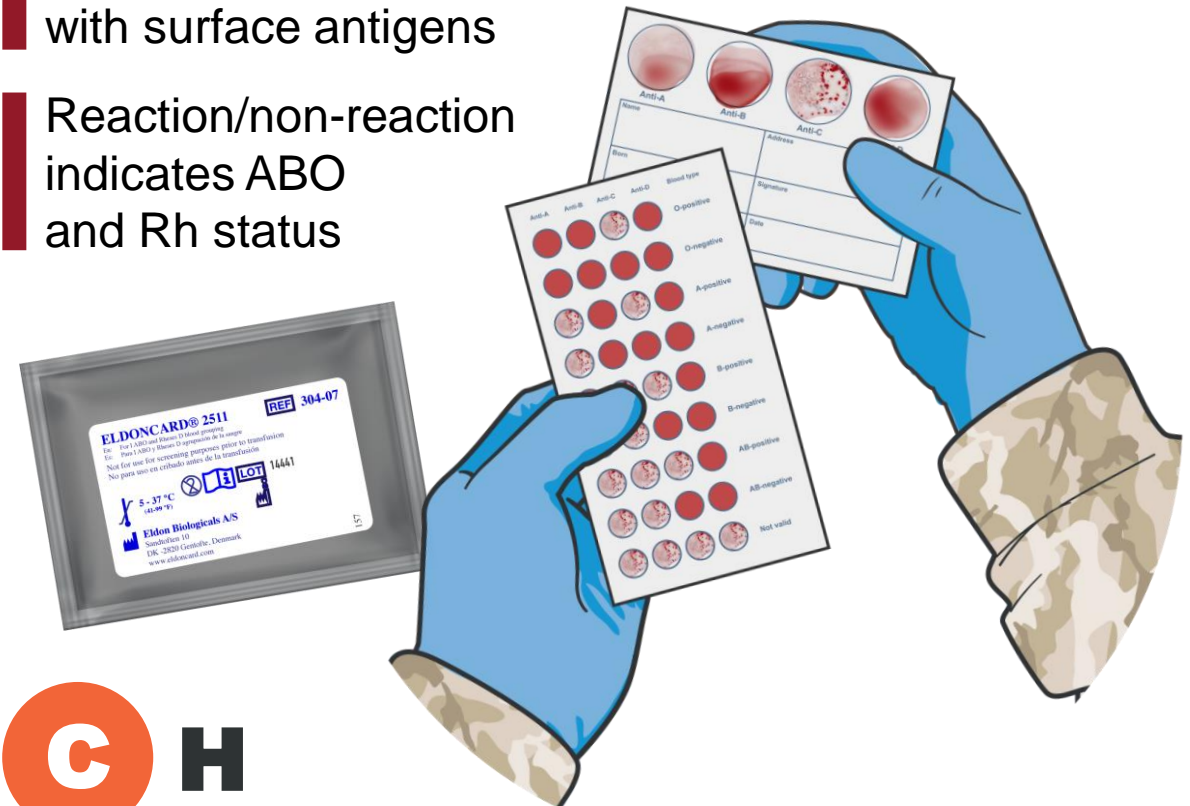
Rh antigen also a major marker

Minor markers require more advanced lab resources, but not tactically important



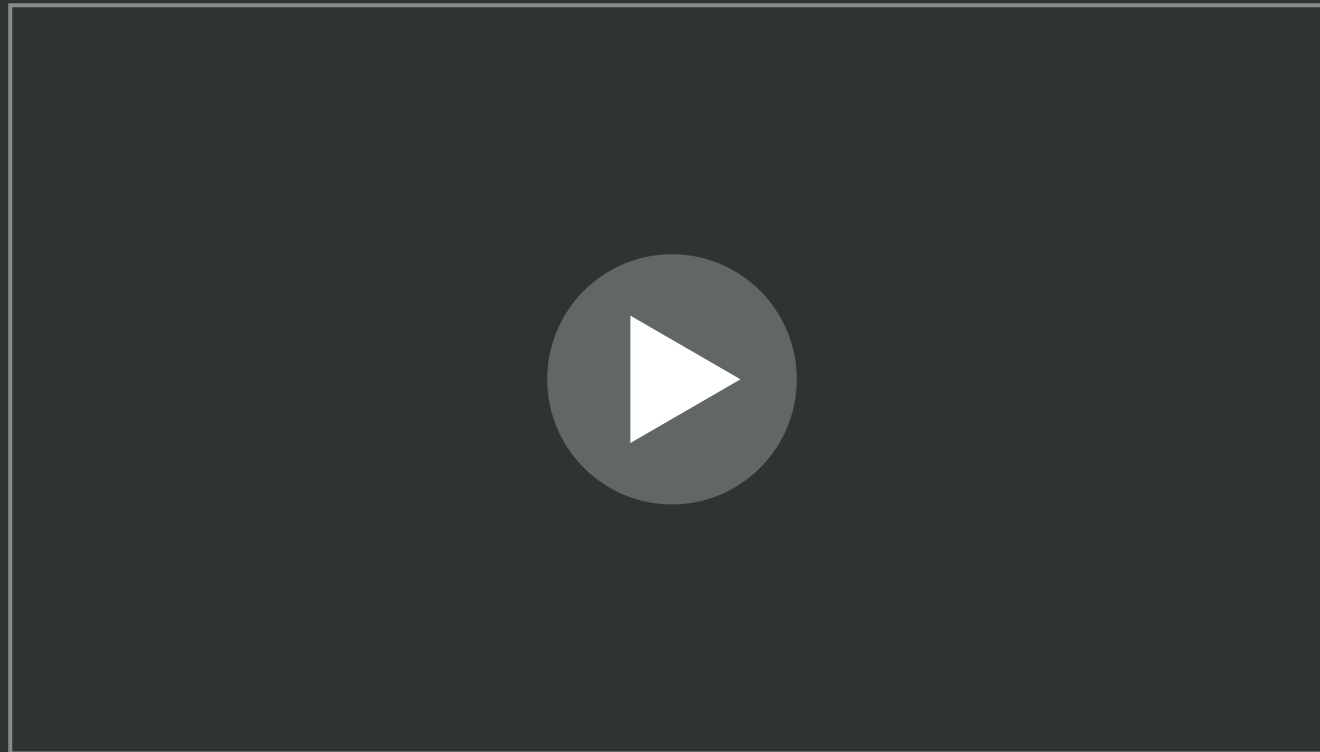
## EldonCard®

- Antigen-impregnated surface
- Donor/casualty blood reacts with surface antigens
- Reaction/non-reaction indicates ABO and Rh status



**MARCH**

# ELDONCARD TECHNIQUES IN TACTICAL FIELD CARE



*Video can be found on [deployedmedicine.com](https://deployedmedicine.com)*

# BLOOD COLLECTION

## Considerations in collecting blood

- Collection bags have needle attached (16-gauge)
- Lower collection bag below level of the heart
- Gently shake or agitate bag to mix citrate anticoagulants
- Don't overfill the bag
- Clamp and then tie off the collection tubing when bag is full



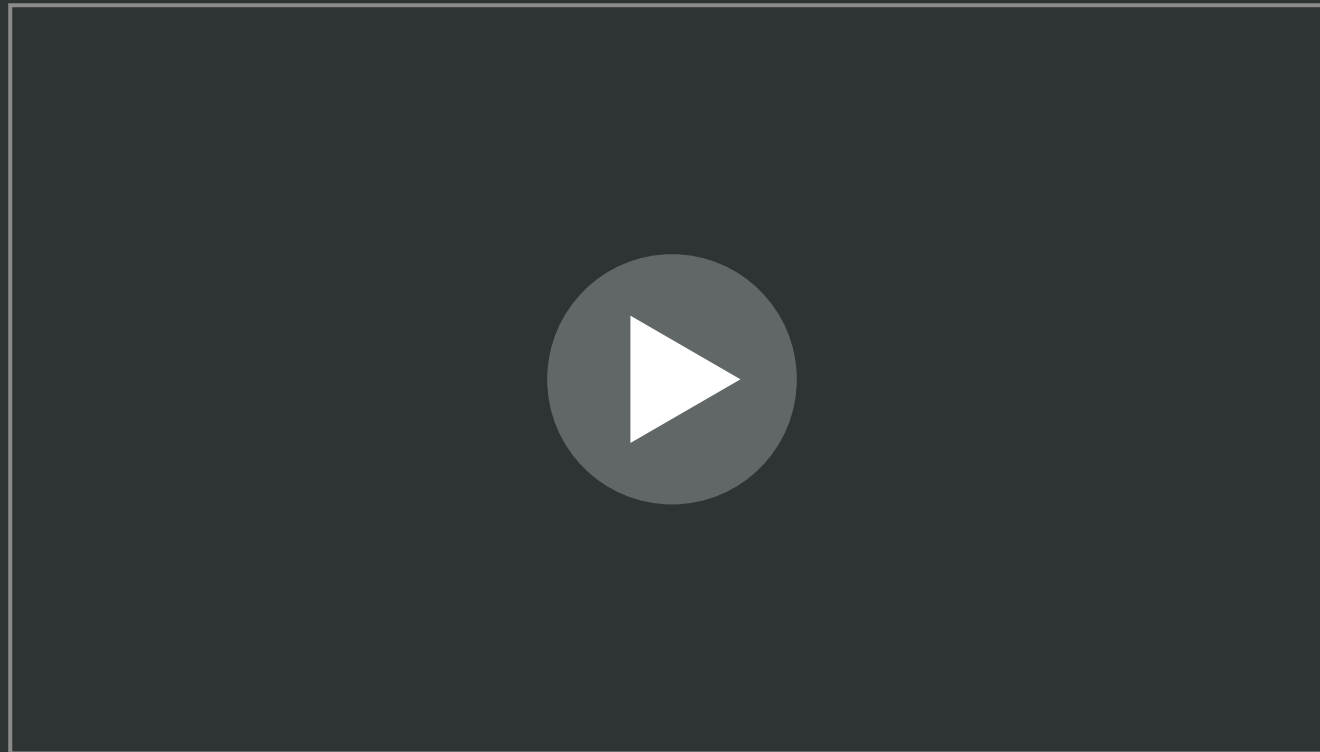
## Methods to determine bag is full

- 6.5-inch beaded cable tie
- 6.5-inch zip tie
- Fold and clamp bottom 1-1½ inches of the bag
- Parachute 550 cord cut at 10 inches wrapped around center



Donors experience mild decline in oxygen-carrying capacity, but no decrease in performance or cognitive function





# BLOOD DONOR COLLECTION IN TACTICAL FIELD CARE



*Video can be found on [deployedmedicine.com](http://deployedmedicine.com)*

# SKILL STATION

## Fluid Resuscitation in Hemorrhagic Shock






-  Blood-typing using an EldonCard
-  Collecting blood from a donor
-  Administering freeze-dried plasma
-  Transfusing blood products to a casualty

# SUMMARY

- Early resuscitation with cold-stored low-titer type O whole blood
- Progressive strategies for fluid resuscitation
- Importance of early administration of blood products
- Indications and techniques for blood product administration
- Identification and management of blood transfusion complications
- Blood-type determination with EldonCards
- Donor blood collection techniques
- Blood administration skills training
- Blood typing and blood collection skills training



# CHECK ON LEARNING

-  What signs of hemorrhagic shock are indications that fluid resuscitation is needed?
-  What is the preferred product for hemorrhagic fluid resuscitation?
-  When should calcium be administered during fluid resuscitation?
-  When should fluid resuscitation be discontinued?
-  What is an advantage of freeze-dried plasma?



**ANY QUESTIONS?**

## REFERENCES

### TCCC: Guidelines

by JTS/CoTCCC

These guidelines, updated regularly, are the result of decisions made by CoTCCC in exploring evidence-based research on best practices.

### PHTLS: Military Edition, Chapter 25

by NAEMT

Prehospital Trauma Life Support,  
Military Ninth Edition

### Damage Control Resuscitation CPG

Joint Trauma System

Damage Control Resuscitation (CPG ID:18),  
Joint Trauma System Website

