

10 THE MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING OF ADVERSE EVENTS

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10.4 Other Delayed Complications
Section 10
Transfusion Medicine Protocols
Women's & Newborn Health Services
Perth Western Australia

10.4 OTHER DELAYED COMPLICATIONS

Other Delayed Complications not associated with red cell incompatibility may include Transfusion Associated Graft versus Host Disease (TA GvHD), Post Transfusion Purpura viral infection and Iron Overload.

- **TA-GvHD**
This is a rare, but usually fatal, complication and is caused by an immune reaction of donor T cells against the recipient who is often immunodeficient. Symptoms develop 4-30 days after transfusion and include fever, rash, liver and renal failure and pancytopenia. Prevention is by the gamma-irradiation of cellular blood components for susceptible recipients.
- **Post-transfusion purpura**
This is immune-mediated thrombocytopenia caused by antibodies against donor platelet antigens (usually anti-HPA-1a). Thrombocytopenia is usually severe 7-10 days after a transfusion and may cause bleeding. Treatment of choice is high-dose Immunoglobulin.
- **Post-transfusion viral infection**
This is caused by a donor infection not detected by donor screening (see **Section 1 Transfusion Risks**).
- **Iron overload.**

If a delayed complication is suspected:

Notify the Consultant Haematologist for further discussion and advice.