

Platelet Donation:- Platelets are small blood cells required for the control of bleeding. Hence, platelets are used in conditions where the platelet count of a patient decreases like dengue, blood cancer and other platelet disorders. Platelets have a short shelf life and are therefore prepared fresh, as and when required.

Platelet collection is done by a cell separator machine which collects only platelets from the blood and rest of the blood is returned back into the donor. This procedure is called plateletpheresis .

SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT PLATELETPHERESIS

Who can donate platelets?

- A healthy blood donor with a platelet count >1.5 lakh /mm³
- The person should not have taken aspirin or pain killers in the last three days.

How frequently can plateletpheresis be done?

- Donated platelets are recovered within 2-4 hours. The procedure can be repeated safely after 72 hours on the same donor. However if a person has donated blood previously then he can not undergo the procedure for three months from date of blood donation.

How much time does plateletpheresis take?

- The procedure takes about 2-3 hours. It includes time for testing the blood sample of donor to determine the suitability to undergo the procedure .The actual procedure time is about one hour.

Why does plateletpheresis takes a long time?

- Unlike blood donation (completed within 10 minutes), apheresis involves separation of platelets and return of rest of the blood back to the donor. This takes time and is done while the donor is connected to the machine.

Is there any harm in being connected to the machine?

- Plateletpheresis is a very safe procedure. The donor remains comfortable and safe. The procedure is done under supervision of trained doctors. The donor can talk, listen to music, read a book during the procedure.

Are there any side effects of the process?

- Some donors may have sensation of numbness on the face and lips. This can be easily corrected by intake of tablet

Will my blood become bad or get infected in the machine?

- There is no chance of the blood getting infected or going bad. Actually the procedure is safer than blood donation. The donor's blood actually does not enter the machine but runs through a disposable sterile single use kit. In the machine platelets are separated and the remaining blood is returned to the donor.