

Guidelines for the use of fresh frozen plasma. British Committee for Standards in Haematology, Working Party of the Blood Transfusion Task Force.

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Publication year: 1992

Journal: Transfusion medicine (Oxford, England)

Authors: British Society for Haematology, London, U.K.

Society: British Committee for Standards in Haematology

Origin country: United Kingdom

Target countries: United Kingdom

DOI: 10.1111/j.1365-3148.1992.tb00135.x

PMID: 1308464

Source: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/1308464/>

Fresh frozen plasma should only be used to treat bleeding episodes or prepare patients for surgery in certain defined situations. Definite indications for the use of FFP: 1. Replacement of single coagulation factor deficiencies, where a specific or combined factor concentrate is unavailable. 2. Immediate reversal or warfarin effect. 3. Acute disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC). 4. Thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura (TTP). Conditional uses: FFP only indicated in the presence of bleeding and disturbed coagulation: 1. Massive transfusion. 2. Liver disease. 3. cardiopulmonary bypass surgery. 4. Special paediatric indications. No justification for the use of FFP: 1. Hypovolaemia. 2. Plasma exchange procedures. 3. 'Formula' replacement. 4. Nutritional support. 5. Treatment of immunodeficiency states.