



PIDD Post

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BioRx... Get headed in the right direction.

Plasma Donation:

An Important Decision that Can Help Save Lives

Those of us who have a primary immune deficiency disease (PIDD), or care for someone who does, are acutely aware of the importance and value of plasma donations. Each time we receive IVIG or subcutaneous IG therapy we silently thank those who have made our therapies possible by donating plasma. But did you know that plasma-based therapies are used to treat millions of people throughout the world with a variety of other life-threatening diseases and conditions? These include hemophilia, severe burns, neurological and autoimmune diseases, trauma and more.

WHAT is plasma and plasma donation?

Plasma is the clear, liquid part of the blood. Simply put, it is what is left after the red and white blood cells and platelets are removed. Plasma is the source of proteins and antibodies.

Plasma donation involves a process called "plasmapheresis." Blood is removed from the donor in a fashion similar to blood donation. The red blood cells are separated from the plasma and returned to the donor's body. Because only the liquid (plasma) is removed – and this can be replaced quickly by the body – an individual can donate plasma as often as twice per week.

WHO can donate?

There are a number of things that must be considered before an individual is accepted as a plasma donor. Rather than cover them all in

this issue of PIDD Post, it is best to contact a Plasma Donation Center for details. In general, however, people 18 and older who are healthy may be considered. Of course it is vital that all donors are carefully screened in order to ensure the safety of everyone concerned. In fact, the first donation that anyone makes is used only for screening purposes.

HOW does plasma donation work?

Donating plasma is similar to donating blood. Donors sit in a comfortable chair. A needle is placed in a vein in the arm or hand, and blood is collected in a sterile receptacle. Once the plasma is separated out, the blood is returned via the same needle.

The first donation may take up to 2 or 3 hours, but subsequent donations require only about 90 minutes.

WHY is plasma donation important?

Plasma cannot be made in a laboratory. The production of life-saving plasma-based therapies depends on people who are willing to donate.

If you are a family member or friend of someone who uses immunoglobulin therapy, perhaps YOU might consider becoming a plasma donor.

For more information about donating plasma, visit www.donatingplasma.org.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT US AT 1-866-442-4679, or visit www.biorx.com

Past issues of the PIDD Post can be found at www.biorx.com/pidd.php