

THE EXPERIENCE OF A HOSPITAL BLOOD BANK DURING NATIONWIDE LOCKDOWN DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

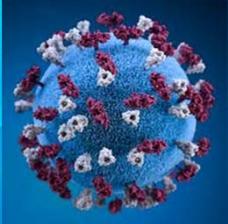
M.Skertsoy,¹T.Dimoudi,¹A.Makri¹,I.Dendrinou¹,B.Tsangari¹,E.Tzini¹,N.Vgontza¹,
1.Blood Bank , General Hospital N. Ionias, Konstantopouleio-Patision,Athens,Greece.

BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 pandemic affected blood sufficiency internationally due to the reduced attendance of blood donors.

The scientific associations and the competent authorities of the Blood Establishment of our country took timely measures in order to protect the health of blood donors , patients, and staff of Blood Banks .

The full operation of our Blood Bank services, regardless of the pandemic was a given . Blood donations at the fixed blood collection room of our hospital and at mobile collection units continued smoothly and safely, as well as the transfusions of our patients.



AIMS

The purpose of this study is to present the data of blood donations and transfusions of the blood bank during the lockdown (23/3/20-5/5/20) when the scheduled outpatient clinics and surgeries were closed with a corresponding reduction of the replacement blood donors.



METHODS

The statistics of blood donations and transfusions during the period 23/3/20-5/5/20 and the corresponding period of 2019 were recorded from our electronic file.



RESULTS

Table : Blood collection and transfusion statistics.

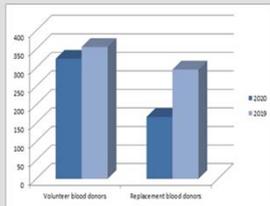
Time period	Blood Donors			Transfusions
	Volunteer donors	Replacement donors	Total	
23/3/20-5/5/20	324	167	491	403
23/3/19-5/5/19	356	295	651	492

According to the collected data, the total number of blood donations in the period 23/3/20 to 5/5/20 was 491, while the corresponding in 2019 was 651.

The decrease in the number of donations is mainly due to the reduction of replacement blood donors which were 167 in 2020, while in 2019 were 295.

On the contrary, the number of volunteer donors during these periods remained relatively unchanged. The interval 23/3/20 -5/5/20 the volunteers were 324 whereas 2019 were 356.

Graph 1: Blood donors at intervals 23/3/20/5/5/20/23/3/19/5/5/19



RESULTS

The total number of transfusions from 23/3/20 to 5/5/20 was 403, while during the same period last year it was 492.

In the Surgical Sector, as there were no scheduled surgeries, the number of transfusions decreased.

In the Surgical Clinic, transfusions during the lockdown were only 39 while in the corresponding period of 2019 they were 46.

The same happened in the Orthopedic Clinic. 23/3/20-5/5/20, 64 transfusions took place, contrary to 74 in 2019.

Graph 2: Transfusions at intervals 23/3/20/5/5/20/23/3/19/5/5/19

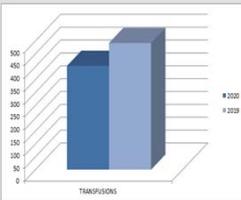
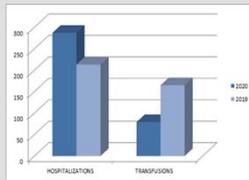


Table 1: Hospitalizations and transfusions.

		23/3/20-5/5/20		23/3/19-5/5/19	
		Hospitalizations	Transfusions	Hospitalizations	Transfusions
Internal Medicine Sector	1 st Internal Medicine Clinic	215	228	127	94
	2 nd Internal Medicine Clinic	287	79	213	185
Surgical Sector	Orthopedic Clinic	41	64	153	74
	Surgical Clinic	135	39	282	46

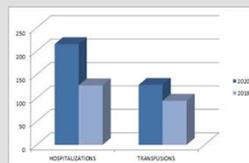
RESULTS

Graph III: 2nd Internal Medicine Clinic: Hospitalizations and total number of transfusions during the period 2/17 / 20/5 / 2020 and the corresponding period of 2019.



Regarding the 2nd Internal Medicine Clinic, the 165 transfusions of the abovementioned period of 2019 decreased to 79, in the corresponding period of 2020.

Graph IV: 1st Internal Medicine Clinic: Hospitalizations and total number of transfusions in the period 2/17 / 20/5 / 2020 and the corresponding period of 2019.



On the other hand, at the 1st Internal Medicine Clinic, paradoxically, the number of transfusions during the lockdown period increased to 128, from 94 in 2019. This is probably due to the relaxation of transfusion supervision.

CONCLUSIONS

Volunteer blood donors show sensitivity and empathy, have generous and consistent blood donation behavior in times of crisis.

They remained at about the same levels during the study period of lockdown, compared to the corresponding period of 2019, despite the universal curfew.



CONCLUSIONS

The lack of good transfusion therapy practices in times of crisis is evident (inability of retraining of clinicians regarding transfusion indications, non-holding of meetings of the Hospital Transfusion Committee and lack of communication among doctors).



CONCLUSIONS

The current Covid-19 pandemic with no known end date, has decreased blood supplies . Donors are scared of visiting the healthcare facilities due to perceived risk of getting infected . A balancing effort should be made , with the implementation of patient blood management programs (PBM).

The need for PBM is now more essential than ever.



THANK YOU!