

WHY DO WE ASK ABOUT PREGNANCY HISTORY?

YOUR HEALTH HISTORY HELPS SAVE LIVES

At our donation center, your safety—and the safety of patients receiving your donation—is our top priority. Donors, regardless of gender, are eligible to donate if they are not currently pregnant and have not been pregnant within the last six weeks. Pregnancy includes miscarriages, abortions, and live or still births. Here's why:

WHAT HAPPENS DURING PREGNANCY?

Donors who have been pregnant have a higher chance of developing Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) antibodies, which increase the risk of Transfusion-Related Acute Lung Injury (TRALI) in recipients.

WHAT IS TRALI?

TRALI (Transfusion-Related Acute Lung Injury) is a rare but serious reaction during a blood transfusion. It can be caused by HLA antibodies and may lead to severe respiratory distress and even death in some patients. Studies show that TRALI is most often linked to plasma or platelets collected from donors who have been pregnant and developed HLA antibodies.

WHY TESTING MATTERS

To prevent this serious transfusion reaction, we require donors with a history of pregnancy to:

- Be tested for HLA antibodies before donating platelets.
- Have negative test results to be eligible for platelet donation.
- Undergo retesting after each new pregnancy.

GOOD NEWS

If you test positive for HLA antibodies, you can still donate whole blood or red blood cells. The plasma component of your whole blood donation will be manufactured to cryoprecipitate (cryo), which does not contain the antibodies. If you test negative for HLA antibodies, you may donate platelets and/or whole blood.

HOW COMMON ARE HLA ANTIBODIES?

The likelihood of having HLA antibodies increases with each pregnancy:

- After 1 pregnancy: 20%
- After 2 pregnancies: 30%
- After 3 pregnancies: 32%
- After 4 pregnancies: 40%

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HONESTY AND SUPPORT

By sharing your pregnancy history (including the end date of your last pregnancy), you're helping us ensure that every donation is safe, effective, and lifesaving for those in need. We are grateful for your generosity and commitment to helping our patients!