

# Cell salvage during a caesarean section

Critical Care Services

## Introduction

This leaflet will explain what cell salvage is, when and how it is used and the related benefits and risks associated with its use.

## What is cell salvage?

- Cell salvage is a way of collecting blood that is lost during an operation, and cleaning it so that it can be given back to you
- The aim of giving this blood back is to reduce the problems during and after the operation caused by too much blood loss

## How is it done?

- Blood that is lost during your caesarean section is collected using a cell salvage machine
- This machine then cleans the blood and separates it into different parts, saving just the red blood cells (which carry oxygen)
- The blood can then be given back to you during the operation or afterwards
- Your blood will only ever be given to you. Similarly, during cell salvage you will never be given anyone else's blood. This is different from a standard blood transfusion where blood is donated by another person and then given to you

## What are the benefits of cell salvage?

- If you lose blood during your operation, cell salvage can help by reducing the need for a blood transfusion donated by someone else. This reduces the risk of reactions to the wrong blood type occurring, or of transmission of infection from someone else's blood
- Cell salvage may also be acceptable to people who do not wish to have a transfusion of donor blood for reasons of faith or for other reasons
- If you are a blood donor and have received only cell salvaged blood, it may be possible for you to continue as a blood donor when you have recovered from having your baby

**The prevention of infection is a major priority in all healthcare and everyone has a part to play.**

- **Please decontaminate your hands frequently for 20 seconds using soap and water or alcohol gel if available**
- **If you have symptoms of diarrhoea and/or vomiting, cough or other respiratory symptoms, a temperature or any loss of taste or smell please do not visit the hospital or any other care facility and seek advice from 111**
- **Keep the environment clean and tidy**
- **Let's work together to keep infections out of our hospitals and care homes.**

## What are the risks?

In the past there have been two main risks of using cell salvage during caesarean section.

- The first is that amniotic fluid (the 'waters' that surround the baby in the womb) could enter your bloodstream and cause harm through an allergic reaction
- Cell salvage has been used in caesarean sections for many years and there is no evidence of this happening
- The second is that the baby's blood could enter your bloodstream causing you to develop antibodies that could harm a baby in future pregnancies
- This can only happen to women who are the blood group RhD negative ("rhesus negative")
- If you are RhD negative AND your baby has the blood group RhD positive ("rhesus positive") you will be offered an injection to prevent antibodies forming, within 72 hours of having your baby

## Where can I get more information?

- Ask your obstetrician, anaesthetist or midwife if cell salvage is suitable or if it is needed during your caesarean section
- For further information about cell salvage please visit:  
[http:// www.transfusionguidelines.org.uk/transfusion-practice/uk-cellsalvage-action-group](http://www.transfusionguidelines.org.uk/transfusion-practice/uk-cellsalvage-action-group)

## English

If you need information in another way like easy read or a different language please let us know.

If you need an interpreter or assistance please let us know.

## Lithuanian

Jeigu norėtumėte, kad informacija jums būtų pateikta kitu būdu, pavyzdžiui, supaprastinta forma ar kita kalba, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

Jeigu jums reikia vertėjo ar kitos pagalbos, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

## Polish

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać te informacje w innej postaci, na przykład w wersji łatwej do czytania lub w innym języku, prosimy powiedzieć nam o tym.

Prosimy poinformować nas również, jeżeli potrzebowaliby Państwo usługi tłumaczenia ustnego lub innej pomocy.

## Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ, ਜਿਵੇਂ ਪੜ੍ਹਨ ਵਿਚ ਆਸਾਨ ਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੂਜੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ, ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਦੁਭਾਸ਼ੀਏ ਦੀ ਜਾਂ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

## Romanian

Dacă aveți nevoie de informații în alt format, ca de exemplu caractere ușor de citit sau altă limbă, vă rugăm să ne informați.

Dacă aveți nevoie de un interpret sau de asistență, vă rugăm să ne informați.

## Traditional Chinese

如果您需要以其他方式了解信息，如易读或其他语种，请告诉我们。

如果您需要口译人员或帮助，请告诉我们。