Blood Conservation Strategies and Techniques

Dear Patient,

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce the concept of blood conservation should you require surgery. Some patients choose not to accept any blood products and others may want to minimize the need for donor blood during surgery.

Blood conservation offers patients significant benefit by:

- Reducing your exposure to viruses and other blood borne diseases
- Reducing the risk of hospital acquired infections
- Possibly reducing your hospital stay

At the Keck Medical Center of USC we offer a variety of options to our patients to minimize or eliminate the need for blood transfusion:

BEFORE SURGERY

Anemia Correction*
- Synthetic Erythropoietin – a hormone that stimulates production of red blood cells in your bone marrow
- Iron (oral and intravenous) – a mineral essential for the formation of red blood cells
- B12, Folic Acid, Vitamin C – vitamins necessary for red blood cell production

DURING SURGERY

Hemodilution - Removal of a specific amount of blood during surgery, replaced with intravenous (IV) fluids and returned after surgery

Cell Salvage - The process of collecting blood lost during surgery and returning it to the patient after being appropriately processed

AFTER SURGERY

Minimal Blood Draws - By reducing the number of lab draws after surgery, this can reduce the risk of anemia. When lab draws are required, only the smallest amount of blood needed to complete the testing should be taken.

Your physician will be available to discuss these options with you when you come in for your consultation. Additionally, you can also call our Blood Management Program at (323) 442-5263 to learn more or email us at randy.henderson@health.usc.edu.

*These techniques are available for most patients.