

Iatrogenic hemodilution: a possible cause for avoidable blood transfusions?

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A restrictive approach to blood transfusions is recommended by most current guidelines. Others suggest that in some patients a more liberal transfusion strategy may be beneficial. However, the extensive discussions regarding the appropriate transfusion threshold have not adequately addressed the potential impact of iatrogenic hemodilution on the hemoglobin (Hb) level during dynamic clinical conditions that necessitate fluid administration. This editorial will attempt to describe the frequent occurrence of iatrogenic hemodilution and its potential impact on decisions to transfuse blood.