HEMATOLOGY, TRANSFUSION AND CELL THERAPY

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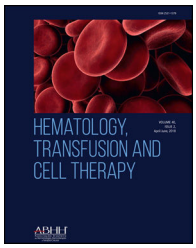

Letter to the Editor

Zika virus, blood donation and transfusion transmission risk

Dear Editor,

We read the publication on "Risk of Zika virus transmission by blood donations in Brazil" with a great interest.[1] Magnus et al. concluded that "*the risk for Zika virus transmission by blood transfusion is real, even in regions with a low circulation of the disease, but the combination of the detection of Zika virus RNA by polymerase chain reaction and post-donation surveillance might reduce the risk of transmission by blood transfusions*[1]." We would like to share ideas and experience on the observation in this study. In our area in Indochina where asymptomatic Zika virus infection is common,[2,3] the risk of transmission is possible and estimated at 0.38%.[4] The rate is similar to the observed virus contamination rate reported by Magnus et al.[1] Hence, it is no doubt that there is a considerable rate of Zika virus contamination worldwide. The screening can be useful and the topic on cost effectiveness has to be further studied and discussed. Nevertheless, the conclusion that post-donation surveillance can reduce risk might not be valid. The post-donation surveillance can give only epidemiological data that might be useful for public health planning, but it cannot determine the exact cross-sectional situation at donation.

Conflicts of interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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