



Practical Problems in Transfusion Medicine

Transfusion Therapy Case Study 1

Part 1: Case Presentation

A request for six units of platelets is received from the Emergency Room for a 32 year old woman who was referred by her physician because a complete blood count (CBC) ordered as part of an annual physical examination showed a platelet count of 3000/ μ L. A repeat CBC done by the Emergency Room staff revealed a hematocrit of 37, a white count of 6800/ μ L with a normal differential, and a platelet count of 5000/ μ L.

- **Is the history provided by the Emergency Room staff sufficient to justify transfusion of platelets at this point?**
- **If not, what other clinical or laboratory information would you require prior to determining whether platelets should be released for transfusion?**