

Understanding RhD negative: What does it mean to be RhD negative?

Being *RhD negative* means you don't have a certain protein ("D antigen" or the RhD factor) on the surface of your red blood cells. If you do have it, you're *RhD positive*. So the terms "RhD negative" and "RhD positive" are really just terms that further define what type of blood a person has, beyond the general blood type categories of A, B, AB and O.

Being RhD negative is neither good nor bad, but it can be a serious issue if you're a blood donor or a patient.

How important is your blood for people who are RhD negative blood type?

Patients with RhD negative blood type should be transfused with RhD negative blood in normal circumstance. There are only about 2,000 Macao residents with this blood type, thus RhD negative blood is considered rare and precious in Macao.

The Macao Blood Transfusion Service used to store a small quantity of RhD negative blood to meet the transfusion needs of negative blood type patients. However, blood has a storage interval of 42 days, hence RhD negative blood type donors should donate blood more frequently as compared to RhD positive donors. This altruistic deed not only helps other people, but also helps you in the future.

What is the probability for me to have RhD negative blood type?

The population of RhD negative individuals varies

among ethnic groups. About 0.5% of the Chinese population and 2% of the Macanese in Macao are RhD negative as compared to 15% of the Caucasian population.

Because of these rare variants, it's very important to have diversified blood donors. If a person with rare blood type needs blood and compatible donor cannot be found, the consequences can be fatal.

By the way, for the small percentage of people who are RhD negative, their blood type causes no special health concerns except when they give or receive blood, or during pregnancy.

What can I do if I am RhD negative blood type?

Please come and donate blood in Macao Blood Transfusion Service. In fact, more than 99% of the blood donation is from donors of Chinese descent who are the predominant ethnic group in Macao. If you are a non-Chinese resident, your act of blood donation in Macao is the utmost importance to both the community and yourself.

How does blood donation relate to me?

Blood donation can help patients with severe illness and those near the edge of death get their lives back. This kind of happiness cannot be described in words.

Should you or your family members require blood transfusion one day, you will then truly understand and appreciate the meaning of blood donation.

In addition, an authoritative study in the United



Are you Negative?

O	RH-
A	RH-
B	RH-
AB	RH-



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States indicates that a regular blood donor has a lower chance of having coronary heart disease than ordinary people.

After donating blood, will the body become weak?

The amount of blood collected by Macao Blood Transfusion Service is based on the body weight of the donor. In general, donors weigh from 45-50kg can donate 350ml blood; 50kg or above can donate 450ml blood. As a matter of fact, about half of the human blood is made up of water. Thus, among the 350ml of blood you donate, 180ml of which is actually water.

For healthy people, it is easy for blood-making organs to produce sufficient blood to maintain their daily lives. The blood-making organs of ordinary people are producing blood every second to replace the dead blood cells. However, for people with diseases related to blood-making organs or patients who have lost a large amount of blood in a short period, the blood of others is the most important element in saving their lives.

Whole Blood consists of:

1. Plasma that constitutes 55% of total blood volume. It contains:
 - Water
 - Protein
 - Fat
 - Inorganic Salt
 - Glucose
2. Cellular components (45%):
 - Red Blood Cells
 - White Blood Cells
 - Platelets

The procedure of blood donation:



1 Register and fill up the health questionnaire



2 Body weight, blood pressure measurement and hemoglobin testing



3 Medical check



4 Blood collection

Donor should take 10-15 minutes break after donation and consume fluids.



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Centro de Transfusões de Sangue dos Serviços de Saúde

Tel : (853) 2828 6699

Fax : (853) 2857 3976

Answering Machine : (853) 2875 2521

Address : Alameda Dr. Carlos d'Assumpção No. 335-341,

Edifício "Hot Line", 2 ° Andar, Macau

Email : cts@ssm.gov.mo

www.ssm.gov.mo/cts/