



Search CBBS Website

- About CBBS →
- How to Join
- e-Network Forum →
- Fast Breaking News →
- Contacts →
- CBBS Meetings →
- Education Fund
- Corporate Support →
- Jobs & Sale Listings →
- Useful Links →
- Site Help/Info →
- Member Area Login

Experience with requests for "bubble filters" for use during transfusion of patients with HHT

A transfusion medicine physician at a large academic medical center in Philadelphia would like to know if any colleagues have had experience with requests for so-called "bubble filters" to be used during transfusion for patients with **hereditary hemorrhagic telangiectasia (HHT)**. According to the inquiring physician, because of arteriovenous malformations, such filters are recommended for all intravenous lines because the infusion of a small air bubble (harmless to non-HHT individual) can cause a stroke in a patient with HHT who has a right-to-left shunt at the level of the lungs. Interventional radiologists state that **CT contrast media cannot be injected through these filters suggesting to this member that the transfusion of blood cells may be even more problematic**. The only literature the inquiring physician can find regarding transfusion states that the "use of air filters is difficult because blood transfusion does not pass easily through an air filter". He does not know if "difficult" means that transfusion is possible, though blood flow is impeded to an extent, or if "difficult" means that red cells are actually lysed and platelets are inappropriately activated.

HOME

Please submit comments to the [e-Network Forum](#).

[Ira A. Shulman, MD](#)
CBBS e-Network Forum Editor & Moderator

[W. Tait Stevens, MD](#)
CBBS e-Network Forum Assistant Editor & Moderator



Printable PDF of this page

Posted: May 21, 2008

Addenda:

The e-Network Forum is supported in part by the California Blood Bank Society (CBBS) and the American Red Cross Blood Services (ARCBS) and endorses collegial discussion among blood banking and transfusion medicine professionals. However, neither the CBBS nor the ARCBS in any way endorse the specific views and opinions expressed in the forum. The forum is not intended as a substitute for medical or legal advice and the content should not be relied upon for any medical or legal purposes. Readers should make their own determinations as to: (i) what constitutes appropriate medical, technical, and administrative practices, and (ii) how best to comply with laws and regulations relevant to their questions. For the latter, they should consider consulting, as to any medical matters, a qualified physician, and, as to any legal matters, an attorney familiar with related state and federal laws. The user of the forum, by accessing same, assumes all risks arising out of such use and releases CBBS and their respective members, directors, officers and agents from and against any loss, damage, claim or liability arising out of such use of the Forum.