

Planning for surgery in Patients Who Are Jehovah's Witnesses



HLC

Hospital Liaison Committee
for Jehovah's Witnesses

“Personal beliefs and cultural practices are central to the lives of doctors and patients”

GMC: Personal beliefs and values in medical practice,
2013



“Jehova cheris blood”

ove and nsider tself.”

Law, Ethic

agement



Advance Decision Document

Advance Decision to Refuse Specified Medical Treatment

1. I, _____ (print or type full name),
born _____ (date) complete this document to set
forth my treatment instructions in case of my incapacity. **The refusal of specified
treatment(s) contained herein continues to apply to that/those treatment(s) even if
those medically responsible for my welfare and/or any other persons believe that
my life is at risk.**
2. I am one of Jehovah's Witnesses with firm religious convictions. With full realization
of the implications of this position I direct that **NO TRANSFUSIONS OF BLOOD
or primary blood components (red cells, white cells, plasma or platelets)** be
administered to me in any circumstances. I also refuse to predonate my blood for later
infusion.
3. No Lasting Power of Attorney nor any other document that may be in force should be
taken as giving authority to disregard or override my instructions set forth herein. Family
members, relatives, or friends may disagree with me, but any such disagreement does not
diminish the strength or substance of my refusal of blood or other instructions.
4. Regarding end-of-life matters: [initial one of the two choices]
(a) _____ I do not want my life to be prolonged if, to a reasonable degree of medical
certainty, my situation is hopeless.
(b) _____ I want my life to be prolonged as long as possible within the limits of generally
accepted medical standards, even if this means that I might be kept alive on machines for
years.
5. **Regarding other healthcare and welfare instructions** (such as current medications,
allergies, medical problems or any other comments about my healthcare wishes):

6. I consent to my relevant medical records and the details of my condition being shared with
the Emergency Contact below and/or with member(s) of the Hospital Liaison Committee
for Jehovah's Witnesses.

7. _____
Signature NHS No. _____ Date _____

Address

8. **STATEMENT OF WITNESSES:** The person who signed this document did so in my
presence. He or she appears to be of sound mind and free from duress, fraud, or undue
influence. I am 18 years of age or older.

Signature of witness _____

Signature of witness _____

Name _____

Occupation _____

Name _____

Occupation _____

Address

Address

Telephone _____

Mobile _____

Telephone _____

Mobile _____

9. EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name _____

Address

Telephone _____

Mobile _____

10. **GENERAL PRACTITIONER CONTACT
DETAILS:** A copy of this document is
lodged with the Registered General
Medical Practitioner whose details
appear below.

Name _____

Address

Telephone Number(s) _____


NO BLOOD
(signed document inside)
**Advance Decision to Refuse
Specified Medical Treatment**

**Advance Decision to Refuse
Specified Medical Treatment**
(signed document inside)

NO BLOOD



Children

“Surgical & ethical management of children must be the well-being of the child ... this must be the first consideration.”



Caring for patients who refuse blood

A GUIDE TO GOOD PRACTICE FOR THE SURGICAL MANAGEMENT OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES AND OTHER PATIENTS WHO DECLINE TRANSFUSION



Royal College of Surgeons
Caring for patients who refuse blood

Supports Good Surgical Practice
Domain 3: Communication, partnership and teamwork



England –
October 2016



Children

“..however, every effort must be made to respect the beliefs of the family and **avoid the use of blood ... wherever possible.**”

Royal College of Surgeons of England –
Caring for patients who refuse blood. 2016

Patient Blood Management



**Maximise
Erythropoiesis**

- IV Iron
- ESAs

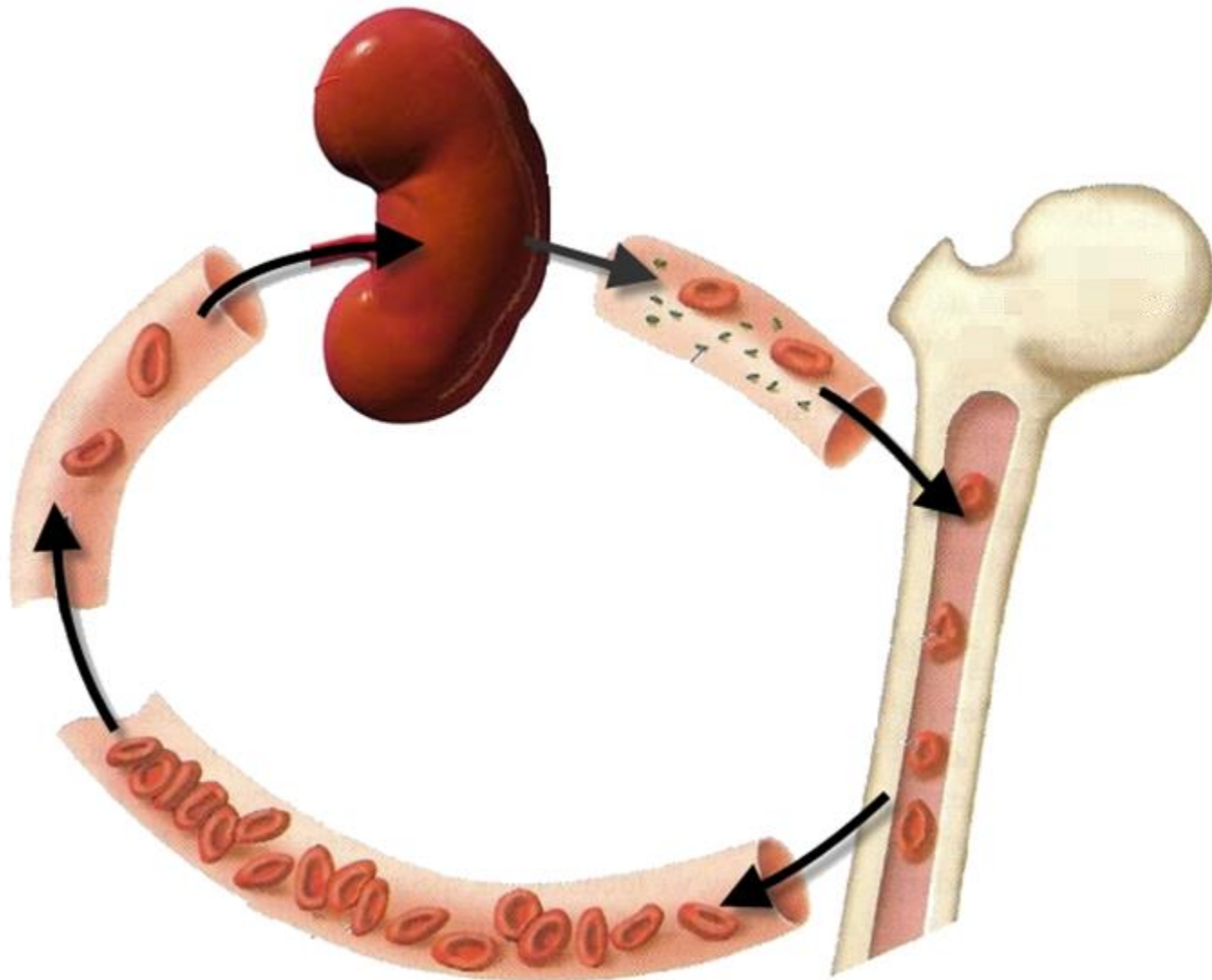
**Minimise
Blood Loss**

- Haemostasis
- Cell Salvage

**Manage
Anaemia**

**Tolerate
lower Hb**

Erythropoietin



Tranexamic Acid



40 Countries



274 Hospitals



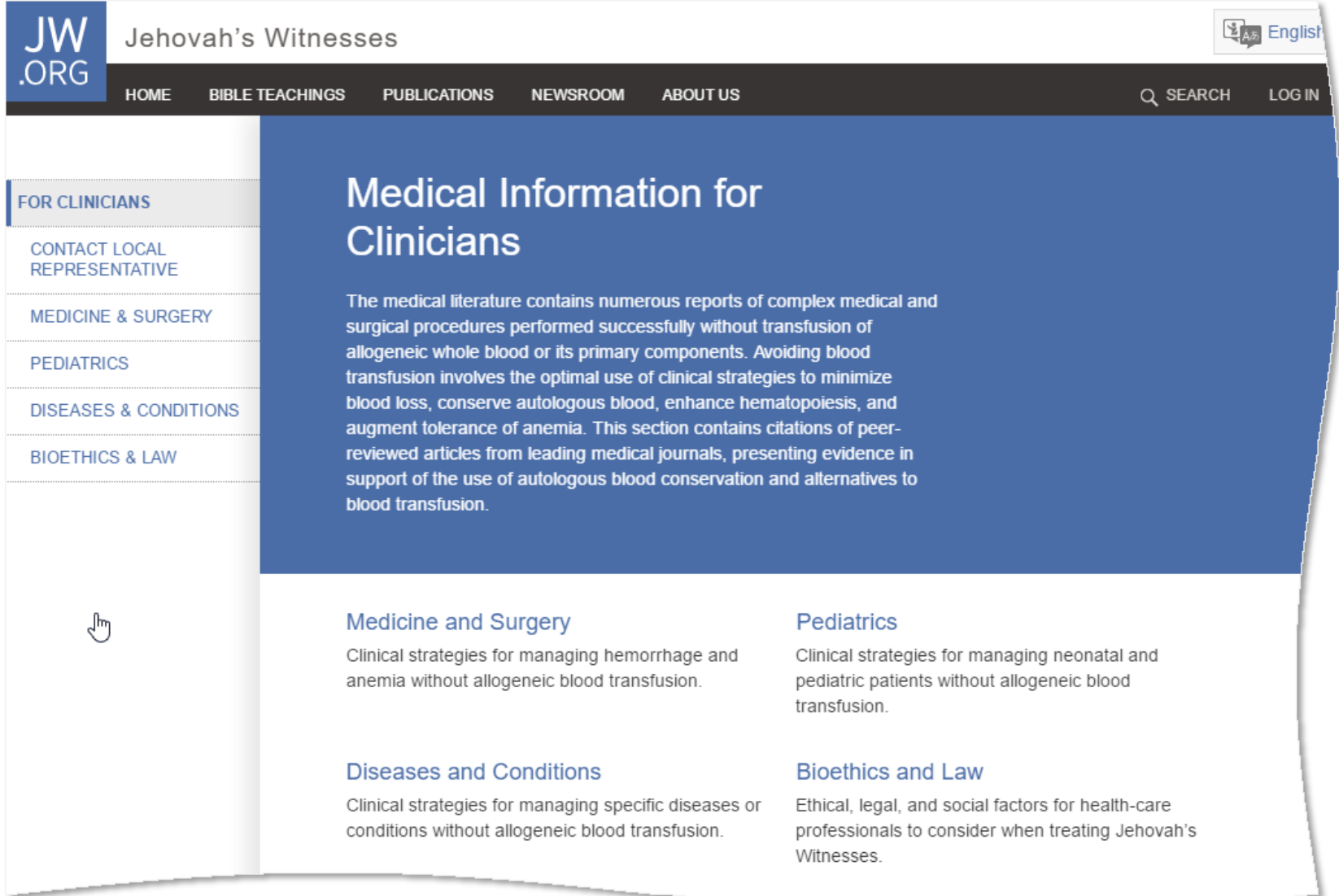
20,211 Patients



32%

**Mortality
Reduction**

Website Resource



The screenshot shows the Jehovah's Witnesses website. The header includes the JW.ORG logo, the text 'Jehovah's Witnesses', and a language selector set to 'English'. A navigation bar contains links for HOME, BIBLE TEACHINGS, PUBLICATIONS, NEWSROOM, and ABOUT US. On the right of the navigation bar are search and login options. A left sidebar lists categories: FOR CLINICIANS (highlighted), CONTACT LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE, MEDICINE & SURGERY, PEDIATRICS, DISEASES & CONDITIONS, and BIOETHICS & LAW. The main content area features a large blue header for 'Medical Information for Clinicians' with a paragraph of text. Below this, four white boxes provide more details for 'Medicine and Surgery', 'Pediatrics', 'Diseases and Conditions', and 'Bioethics and Law'. A mouse cursor is visible over the 'Medicine and Surgery' box.

JW.ORG Jehovah's Witnesses English

HOME BIBLE TEACHINGS PUBLICATIONS NEWSROOM ABOUT US SEARCH LOGIN

FOR CLINICIANS

- CONTACT LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE
- MEDICINE & SURGERY
- PEDIATRICS
- DISEASES & CONDITIONS
- BIOETHICS & LAW

Medical Information for Clinicians

The medical literature contains numerous reports of complex medical and surgical procedures performed successfully without transfusion of allogeneic whole blood or its primary components. Avoiding blood transfusion involves the optimal use of clinical strategies to minimize blood loss, conserve autologous blood, enhance hematopoiesis, and augment tolerance of anemia. This section contains citations of peer-reviewed articles from leading medical journals, presenting evidence in support of the use of autologous blood conservation and alternatives to blood transfusion.

Medicine and Surgery

Clinical strategies for managing hemorrhage and anemia without allogeneic blood transfusion.

Pediatrics

Clinical strategies for managing neonatal and pediatric patients without allogeneic blood transfusion.

Diseases and Conditions

Clinical strategies for managing specific diseases or conditions without allogeneic blood transfusion.

Bioethics and Law

Ethical, legal, and social factors for health-care professionals to consider when treating Jehovah's Witnesses.

FOR CLINICIANS

CONTACT LOCAL
REPRESENTATIVE

MEDICINE & SURGERY

PEDIATRICS

DISEASES & CONDITIONS

BIOETHICS & LAW

VIDEOS

COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF BLOOD TRANSFUSION ALTERNATIVES

Blood Cell Salvage

Intra-operative cell salvage in South Africa: feasible, beneficial and economical.

Solomon L, von Rahden RP, Allorto NL.

Source: S Afr Med J 2013;103(10):754-7.

Indexed: PubMed 24079629

DOI: 10.7196/samj.7355

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24079629>

Clinical efficacy and cost effectiveness of intraoperative cell salvage in pelvic trauma surgery.

Odak S, Raza A, Shah N, Clayson A.

Source: Ann R Coll Surg Engl 2013;95(5):357-60.

Indexed: PubMed 23838500

DOI: 10.1308/003588413X13629960045715

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23838500>

The use of blood cell salvage in acetabular fracture internal fixation surgery.

Bigsby E, Acharya MR, Ward AJ, Chesser T.J.

Source: J Orthop Trauma 2013;27(10):e230-3.

Indexed: PubMed 23360908

DOI: 10.1097/BOT.0b013e3182877684

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23360908>

The economic benefits of cell salvage in obstetric haemorrhage.

Brearton C, Bhalla A, Mallaiah S, Barclay P.

Source: Int J Obstet Anesth 2012;21(4):329-33.

Contact Local Representative

A free worldwide service, available 24 hours a day to clinicians treating Jehovah's Witnesses.

Contact

Hospital Liaison Committee Network for Jehovah's Witnesses



Collaboration - Information - Support

“[HLCs] are very helpful and excellent arbitrators. Without them many relationships between doctor and patient would have been destroyed.”



Prof. Elliott

Co-Medical Director at St. Mary's Hospital; Professor of Paediatric Cardiothoracic Surgery, University College London.