



Dear Platelet Champions,

Welcome to Edition 9 of the Platelet Champions Newsletter. This issue surrounds **Top Tip No 9: – Review the timeliness of platelet counts or other tests used to inform the decision to prescribe platelets.**

Our next LoPAG Platelet Champions Newsletter – Edition 10, will be looking to share success stories around changes in platelet practices, use, wastage and guidance used within hospitals. There will be prizes on offer so please remember we are interested in any success stories in platelet use available. (Details to follow overleaf)

We are always happy to hear for our champions about future ideas for the LoPAG Platelet Champions Newsletter. Please let us know if there are any particular platelet interests that you would like to see covered as part of your newsletter. All ideas should be forwarded on to myself and Sasha Wilson in preparation for the new year.

Please note that there has been a decision to change the date for the much anticipated Platelet Champions Day which will now be held on **Friday 18th January 2019** - please put the date in your diaries! This will still be at NHSBT Tooting and will be free. Further information to follow!!

Thank you all for your continued hard work in Platelet blood Management and we look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes Kelly Nwankiti – Chair of LoPAG

May 18 - Platelet Issues

National Platelet Issues - 21652

London Platelet Issues – 5789

June 18 - Platelet Issues

National Platelet Issues - 21280

London Platelet Issues - 5430

July 18- Platelet Issues

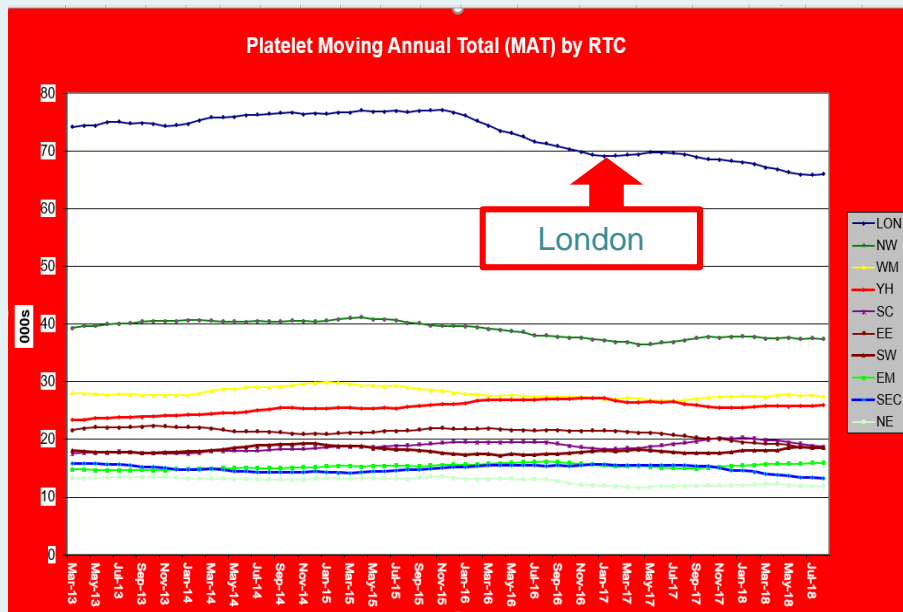
National Platelet Issues - 21280

London Platelet Issues - 5574

August 18 - Platelet Issues

National Platelet Issues - 21652

London Platelet Issues - 5798



LoPAG Top Tips to reduce platelet usage and wastage NUMBER 9

Review the timeliness of platelet counts or other tests used to inform the decision to prescribe platelet transfusions.

Platelet threshold and timing of counts – A Case Study

- ✦ The patient required insertion of a tracheostomy and the morning platelet count (08:07) was 23. The decision was made to give platelets prior to the insertion and increase the count to 50. A pack of platelets were given uneventfully. No post count was taken but the clinician decided to administer a second pack, within a few mls the patient had an anaphylactic reaction. Once the patient had been stabilised the platelet count was checked (16:50) the count was 56.
- ✦ If the platelet count had been checked after the 1st platelet pack it is highly likely the threshold would have been reached and a second pack of platelets would not have been administered. The patient was not well enough after the event for the procedure to be carried out and was postponed to the following day when the platelet count had remained at 50 (08:39).

Tips for improving the timeliness of platelet counts or other tests that inform the decision to prescribe.

The Five P's

- ✦ **Plan** – Plan ahead, carry out tests with enough time to act on them – avoiding '*I gave the platelets because I didn't have time to check*'
- ✦ **Prepare** - You may need to bring patients in earlier, or order platelets in for patients in advance, so that procedures are not delayed or cancelled last minute.
- ✦ **Prioritise** - Encourage chasing results, using platelets that may be assigned to other non – emergency patients or platelets for MH instead of ordering excess
- ✦ **Procedure** - Some procedures will not require platelet transfusions even if the platelets are really low e.g. bone marrow aspirates and PICC lines, so check the platelet count and ask for the thresholds for the procedure. Some will be higher risk due to anticoagulation or platelet function disorders
- ✦ **Patient** – Patients always come first! – this may mean giving more platelets but also avoiding unnecessary transfusions due to the risk of reactions and potential refractoriness!

NHSBT Platelet resources - <http://hospital.blood.co.uk/patient-services/patient-blood-management/platelet-resources/>

Your Success Stories for the Next Edition and the final top tip.

We need to hear from you!!

Top Tip 10:

“Work at it - share practice with colleagues in other hospitals and celebrate success!”

Do you have any stories, changes, successes that you would like to share with other hospitals? Have you changed practice in the lab, the clinical area, implemented new processes or reduced wastage? We want to know!!!

Please remember, there will be a tub of chocolates for the best success story received.

Please send *success stories*, feedback and comments to Sasha.Wilson@nhsbt.nhs.uk