

POSTOPERATIVE CELL SALVAGE (PCS) IN JEHOVAH'S WITNESS PATIENTS

AREA of APPLICATION

Jehovah's Witnesses (JW) regard blood as sacred. On the basis of this deeply held core value, they decline treatment with allogeneic (donor) blood (red cells, white cells, platelets, and plasma).

With regard to autologous transfusion JW patients make a personal decision whether or not to accept such. This includes all forms of perioperative/intraoperative blood salvage (cell salvage), haemodilution, and postoperative blood salvage. While machines, systems, and arrangements vary, each patient will decide how his/her own blood will be handled in the course of a surgical procedure, medical test, or current therapy. Predeposit (PAD) is not acceptable to Jehovah's Witnesses.

Among those prepared to accept autologous procedures, some may specifically request that the system be set up to allow for continuous connectivity. If no such specific request is received, then the equipment/machinery may be used in the usual way.

STAFF

The patient's surgical team and all staff involved in the cell salvage processing

PROCEDURE:

Setting up a continuous circuit (if required)

In general, the administration set must be primed and attached to point of reinfusion whilst the system remains in contact with the drains.

As there are significant differences between devices please refer to your manufacturer as to if and how a continuous circuit can be formed with their product.

Some manufacturers produce a separate extension set for this purpose.

This fact sheet has been verified by representatives of the
Jehovah's Witness community.