Letters to the Editors

Anti-cE (Rh27), a rarely occurring antibody

A serum sample from a 73-year-old female was found to be positive in a pretransfusion antihuman globulin crossmatch. Transfusion was required because of anemia following a gastrectomy. Past history included three pregnancies, and 9 months prior to the gastrectomy she had received a red blood cell (RBC) transfusion. At that time, antibody screening and crossmatch were negative.

Preliminary serologic investigation of the current sample suggested an anti-cE. The serum was further tested vs. group O RBCs of known Rh type using an IgG antihuman globulin test and an enzyme test (bromelin) at room temperature. The serum only agglutinated DcE and dcE (Rh27) RBCs and did not agglutinate DCE, dCE, or dce (Rh27) RBCs, which suggested the presence of anti-cE as a single antibody. The Rh phenotype of the patient was D+C+E−c−e+ (Dce).

Anti-cE was first described in 1961 by Gold et al.\(^1\) in a serum containing eight antibodies, and only a few other samples have been described since then.\(^2\) One example was of a naturally occurring anti-cE (Rh27) that bound complement, described by Kline et al.\(^3\) in 1982.

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Letter from the Editors

Thoughts on September 11

The events of September 11, 2001, had a terrible effect on everyone. But, out of the darkness of this event, there was much goodness. People helped each other and we were kind to each other. I am sure that many of you have blood-bank-related stories that you would like to share with the readers of Immunoheematology. We would like to consider them for publication.

In this issue, you will find a letter to the editors from Debi Long of the Reference Laboratory at the Southern Region of the American Red Cross in Atlanta, Georgia, that relates one of these special kindnesses. If you have a special story and would like to share it, please fax it to Mary McGinniss at (301) 299-7443 or e-mail it to mmanigly@usa.redcross.org.

Feelings of sadness, anger, patriotism, and kindness will be with us forever. Let’s build on our patriotism and kindness.

Delores Mallory
Editor-in-Chief

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