in the white donors tested was 0.12 percent. In the random population the incidence would be 0.29 percent.

Table 1. Results of typing for the WES\(^2\) antigen in 3,072 donors in the United States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Groups</th>
<th>Number tested</th>
<th>Positive</th>
<th>Negative</th>
<th>Incidence of WES(^2) %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>1,460</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1,453</td>
<td>0.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>1,612</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1,610</td>
<td>0.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,072</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3,063</td>
<td>0.29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Editor's note: WES\(^2\) has been established as one of the Cromer blood group antigens located on the complement regulatory glycoprotein, decay-accelerating factor (DAF). See the article by M. J. Telen in this issue.

References

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BOOK REVIEW

Handbook of Transfusion Medicine: Robert G. Westphal, MD. Washington, DC: American Red Cross, 1990. 86 pages. $3.75 for internal customers; $4.00 for others. To order call 1-800-969-8890.

Physicians who practice bedside transfusion medicine without the benefit of extensive training in the subject (in other words, most clinicians!) will be grateful for the sage advice this portable book offers. This handbook seeks to be the lab-coat pocket guide of transfusion medicine like several well-known pocket compendia in other fields that have nurtured house officers through the first years of their training. Because these standard handbooks are incomplete or inaccurate in many areas of transfusion medicine, the Handbook of Transfusion Medicine has an important niche to fill.

A novel and unifying concept used in this text is its approach to transfusion medicine through coagulation mechanisms. As mentioned in the preface, getting blood to stay in the right place (and dealing with the aftermath of its having strayed elsewhere) is a critical part of transfusion medicine. Coagulation thus provides a unifying theme throughout the text, although the wisdom of the approach and the logic that it imparts to one's practice of transfusion medicine may be lost on the reader using the book solely as a quick reference.

While the text functions well for reference purposes, it is probably best read at least once from front to back so that its various subjects can be seen in the context of an interlocking theme. Such a reading would also be helpful in providing the biochemical and immunologic background necessary to understand the pathophysiology and treatment of various situations, including transfusion reactions.

This book would also be of use to another audience, the staff of the transfusion service laboratory. Standard medical technology training does not usually cover the range of topics presented here, and technologists may find the book helpful in identifying the hemotherapy ramifications of various diseases, in clarifying the pathophysiology of an unusual type of transfusion reaction, or in directing the physician's attention to an alternative product or approach. A well-structured format
and the use of different typefaces permit ready identification of key points and facilitate use of this book as a quick reference text, although the lack of an index decreases the book's utility in this regard.

In a condensed book like this, one can invariably find issues that might have been handled differently. For example, additive system red cells receive only passing mention in the chapter "Blood Component Therapy" despite their use as the primary form of red cell transfusion in the United States. (Additive solutions are discussed more fully in another chapter, but finding that section is difficult without an index.) Filtration is mentioned as a means of leukocyte depletion, but the indications for or advantages of filtration are incompletely considered. In a quick reference guide, such omissions and oversimplifications are understandable. But the book occasionally wanders into areas of little interest to the practicing physician (such as the history of transfusion), which makes one wonder why some more practical topics received relatively less attention.

This small book offers remedial instruction, condensed information, and practical guidelines toward logical hemotherapy practice that should assist clinicians in optimizing their practice of transfusion medicine. Every doctor's coat should have one as standard equipment!

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LITERATURE REVIEWS


Blood group antigens
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