COMMUNICATIONS

To the Editor:

Donor Screening With Anti-AnWj

Wj, now called AnWj,1,2 is a high-incidence red cell antigen. Expression of Wj is suppressed by the dominant In(Lu) gene that also affects the expression of P1, i, Ina, Inb, and Lutheran system antigens.3,5

This reference laboratory has routinely screened group O donors with anti-AnWj since 1989. Two test methods are used: (1) U-bottom microplates incubated at room temperature for 15 minutes and then read; (2) tube tests using a LISS additive incubated at 37°C for 15 minutes and taken to the antiglobulin phase. Both methods give comparable test results.

A total of 2400 donors have been screened, including 394 African Americans, 134 American Indians, 128 Asians, 178 Hispanics, and 309 donors from other racial groups. (Since 1991, the American Red Cross blood donation record has included a section for donors to indicate their race voluntarily.)

The anti-AnWj used was obtained from a group A, D+, untransfused 56-year-old male patient.6 The patient’s red cells were of the common Lutheran type Lu−,1,2. His direct antiglobulin test (DAT) was negative, and concentrated eluates prepared from his cells revealed no reactivity. His serum antibody was nonreactive with In(Lu) Lu−,−2 cells, cord cells, AnWj-negative cells, and his own cells. Since the patient’s treatment regimen included therapeutic plasma exchanges, large volumes of his plasma were available for screening.

Three donors have been identified whose red cells are nonreactive with anti-AnWj, -Luα, and -Luβ. Race could not be determined from their donor records. As expected, the red cells of all three donors adsorbed and eluted anti-AnWj. Adsorption/elution studies also showed the red cells to be Lu−,1,2. These results are consistent with the rare In(Lu) Lu−,−2 phenotype.

By initiating routine screening of group O donor red cells with anti-AnWj, three valuable donors have been identified. With continued screening, an AnWj-family, as described by Poole et al.,7 may be found.

References
5. Spring FA, Dalchau R, Daniels GL, et al. The Ina and Inb blood group antigens are located on a glycoprotein of 80,000 MW (the CDw44 glycoprotein) whose expression is influenced by the In(Lu) gene. Immunology 1988;64:37-43.

Trish Lukasavage, MT (ASCP)
American Red Cross Blood Services
Pacific Northwest Region
P.O. Box 5200
Portland, OR 97208

From the Editors:

1993 Review

Many outstanding papers have been published in Immunohematology this year. We wish to thank not only the authors of those papers, but also our editorial board, whose names are listed in every issue. We also wish to thank 19 other persons who have assisted us in peer reviewing and selecting papers for publication:

George W. Bird, PhD
Ritchard G. Cable, MD
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Charles Wallas, MD

We welcome two new members to our editorial board: Paul M. Ness, MD, Blood Bank Director, The Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland, and Patricia Tippett, PhD, Director, MRC Blood Group Unit, London, England. Our thanks also go to Kathryn M. Beattie, North Palm Beach, Florida, who is retiring from the board.

Delores Mallory, Editor-in-Chief
Mary McGinniss, Managing Editor