

“Platelets”

Platelets express ABO (but not Rh) antigens on their surface; these ABO antigens are absorbed from the plasma onto the platelet surface. Rarely, an individual may have platelets that express high levels of ABO antigens [5,6]. Most transfusion services monitor platelet transfusions to limit the amount of ABO incompatible plasma administered with the platelet product, and some avoid giving platelets with high titers of anti-A and anti-B to A and B individuals. When RhD-negative women of childbearing age are given platelet transfusions, platelets from RhD-negative donors are used to avoid potential co-transfusion of a small amount of RhD-positive RBCs in the platelet.