

Platelet Transfusions

dose, administration and storage

Dosing recommendations

Platelet dose is based on weight and type of platelet product.

Usual platelet dose in an adult is 1 adult unit.

“Don’t use 2 when 1 will do”



- Avoid giving excess volume to neonates, infants and small children.
- Blood bank will supply the most appropriate unit in stock.
- It may be that only a portion of the pack/unit will be administered or multiple pedipaks will be supplied if an adult unit is not available.

Platelet product \ Weight	< 10 kg	10 - 19 kg	20 - 29 kg	30 - 39 kg	> 40 kg
Pooled platelets (adult unit)	10ml/kg	10ml/kg	10 ml/kg up to 1 unit	1 unit	1 unit
Apheresis platelets # (adult unit)	5 to 10ml/kg	5 to 10ml/kg	5 to 10 ml/kg up to 1 unit	1 unit	1 unit
Paediatric apheresis platelets # (pedipak)	5 - 10 ml/kg or 1 pedipak	5 - 10 ml/kg or 2 pedipaks	3 - 4 pedipaks	4 pedipaks	4 pedipaks

Can be used to reduce donor exposure in chronically transfused patients

Product	Expected platelet increment
Pooled platelets	1 unit typically increases count by 20 - 40 x 10 ⁹ /L in 70 kg adult
Apheresis platelets #	1 unit typically increases count by 20 - 40 x 10 ⁹ /L in 70 kg adult
Paediatric apheresis platelets	1 pedipak typically increases count in 18kg child by 20 x 10 ⁹ /L

Storage and administration

- Store at room temperature, never in fridge
- Administer via a volumetric pump or syringe driver whenever possible
- Suggest administer over 1 to 2 hours.
- Increased transfusion rates may be associated with increased risk of transfusion reactions.
- Must be completed within 4 hours.
- Use new blood administration filter (170 to 200 micron) when administering platelets.
- Do not transfuse platelets via same blood administration filter after red cell transfusion as some platelets may get caught in fibrin strands/debris caught in filter. (Exception – critical bleeding. Can continue to use same filter unless flow is impeded by debris caught in filter).

All platelet products are leucocyte depleted and irradiated