


[Skip navigation](#)

MedlinePlus
Trusted Health Information for You

A service of the U.S. NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE
and the NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

[Search MedlinePlus](#) [About MedlinePlus](#) | [Site Map](#) | [FAQs](#) | [Contact Us](#)

[español](#)



No evidence of cancer transmission via transfusion

[Printer-friendly version](#)[E-mail to a friend](#)

Reuters Health

Friday, May 18, 2007

NEW YORK (Reuters Health) - People who receive a blood transfusion from a donor with undiagnosed cancer do not appear to be at increased risk of developing the malignancy themselves, new research indicates.

The findings, reported in *The Lancet*, were from an analysis of data entered in Swedish and Danish blood bank registers from 1968 to 2002. Blood donors diagnosed with cancer within 5 years of donation were considered to have had a subclinical malignancy at the time of donation.

A total of 354,094 transfusion recipients were included in the analysis. Of these, 12,012 were thought to have received blood from a donor with undiagnosed cancer, lead investigator Dr. Gustaf Edgren, from the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, and colleagues report.

There was no evidence that recipients of blood from donors with undiagnosed cancer were any more or less likely to develop cancer than recipients given blood from non-cancer donors.

"While randomized trials of different transfusion thresholds provide necessary information about acute outcomes, they do not offer much hope of defining the clinical consequences of transfusion years to decades later, particularly for relatively rare outcomes," Dr. Garth H. Utter, from the University of California, Davis, at Sacramento, comments in a related editorial.

"With their thoughtful analysis of a large and relatively complete dataset, Edgren and colleagues have taken an important stride forward in evaluating one of these potential long-term risks of blood transfusion."

The Lancet, May 19, 2007.

Reuters Health

Copyright © 2007 Reuters Limited. All rights reserved. Republication or redistribution of Reuters content, including by framing or similar means, is expressly prohibited without the prior written consent of Reuters. Reuters shall not be liable for any errors or delays in the content, or for any actions taken in reliance thereon. Reuters and the Reuters sphere logo are registered trademarks and trademarks of the Reuters group of companies around the world.

Related News:

- [More News on Blood Transfusion and Donation](#)
- [More News on Cancer](#)

[More News on this Date](#)

Related MedlinePlus Pages:

- [Blood Transfusion and Donation](#)

- [Cancer](#)

[Home](#) | [Health Topics](#) | [Drugs & Supplements](#) | [Encyclopedia](#) | [Dictionary](#) | [News](#) | [Directories](#) | [Other Resources](#)

[Copyright](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#) | [Quality Guidelines](#)

U.S. National Library of Medicine, 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20894

[National Institutes of Health](#) | [Department of Health & Human Services](#)

Date last updated: 21 May 2007