



Letter to the Editor

Zika virus, blood donation and transfusion transmission risk



Dear Editor,

We read the publication on “Risk of Zika virus transmission by blood donations in Brazil” with a great interest.¹ Magnus et al. concluded that “the risk for Zika virus transmission by blood transfusion is real, even in regions with a low circulation of the disease, but the combination of the detection of Zika virus RNA by polymerase chain reaction and post-donation surveillance might reduce the risk of transmission by blood transfusions¹.” We would like to share ideas and experience on the observation in this study. In our area in Indochina where asymptomatic Zika virus infection is common,^{2,3} the risk of transmission is possible and estimated at 0.38%.⁴ The rate is similar to the observed virus contamination rate reported by Magnus et al.¹ Hence, it is no doubt that there is a considerable rate of Zika virus contamination worldwide. The screening can be useful and the topic on cost effectiveness has to be further studied and discussed. Nevertheless, the conclusion that post-donation surveillance can reduce risk might not be valid. The post-donation surveillance can give only epidemiological data that might be useful for public health planning, but it cannot determine the exact cross-sectional situation at donation.

Conflicts of interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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donations in Brazil. *Hematol Transfus Cell Ther.* 2018;40(3):250–4.

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Beuy Joob ^{a,*}, Viroj Wiwanitkit^{b,c,d}

^a Sanitation Medical Academic Center, Bangkok, Thailand

^b Dr DY Patil University, Pune, India

^c Faculty of Medicine, University of Nis, Nis, Serbia

^d Joseph Ayobabalola University, Ikeji-Arakeji, Nigeria

* Corresponding author at: Sanitation Medical Academic Center, Bangkok, Thailand.

E-mail address: beuyjoob@hotmail.com (B. Joob).

Received 26 August 2018

Accepted 12 November 2018

Available online 19 February 2019

2531-1379/

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.htct.2018.11.001>