

2022 Annual SHOT Report – Supplementary information

Chapter 16: Febrile, Allergic and Hypotensive Reactions (FAHR)

Additional case study not included in the main 2022 Annual SHOT Report.

Case study – inappropriate treatment

Case 16.3: Inappropriate use of adrenaline for a reaction with no allergic features

A male in his 50s with leukaemia attended for a planned day case transfusion of platelets and red cells in a community hospital. Within an hour of commencing red cell transfusion, he developed severe rigors and a rise in temperature. There was no hypotension and no allergic features. He was given intramuscular adrenaline, followed by a second dose along with an antihistamine when his rigors persisted. He was transferred to the emergency department and was subsequently admitted to the haematology ward where he was treated for neutropenic fevers.

Use of the anaphylaxis protocol was inappropriate in a reaction with inflammatory features and distracted from the more likely possibility of a bacterial infection in the context of immunocompromise. There was a significant risk of harm from repeat doses of adrenaline in a thrombocytopenic patient.