

Transfusion-associated viral transmission

Blood transfusion has been and continues to be a possible source of disease transmission. A myriad of agents can potentially be transmitted through blood transfusions, including bacteria, viruses, and parasites. Of these, **bacteria are the most commonly transmitted.**

Viral agents that are capable of being transmitted through blood transfusion include the following:

- Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)
- Hepatitis viruses
- West Nile virus (WNV)
- Cytomegalovirus (CMV)
- Human T-cell lymphotropic viruses (HTLVs)
- Parvovirus B19

Protozoal organisms that can be passed on through transfusion include species of the genus *Plasmodium*, which cause malaria. Prions, which cause Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, are also transmissible through transfusion

Relative risk:

HIV: 1:2 million units

Hepatitis B: 1:270K

Hepatitis C: 1:230K

Question:

The following is possible as a consequence of a blood transfusion:

- a. Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease
- b. Psoriasis
- c. Impetigo
- d. Candidiasis

Answer: A - Protozoal organisms that can be passed on through transfusion include species of the genus *Plasmodium*, which cause malaria. Prions, which cause Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, are also transmissible through transfusion