

*executive committee of
the directing council*



PAN AMERICAN
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

*working party of
the regional committee*

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



74th Meeting
Washington, D. C.
June-July 1975

Provisional Agenda Item 18

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STUDY OF THE PROBLEM OF BLOOD AND ITS DERIVATIVES IN THE REGION OF THE AMERICAS

To deal with Resolution XLV of the XIX Pan American Sanitary Conference (copy attached) adequately, it was first necessary to obtain as accurate information as possible on the needs and availability of blood derivatives in each country. To obtain this information two approaches were considered. The first would involve the assignment of one or more consultants to personally visit each country and seek out the data. The second was that of a direct approach to the individual Governments. In view of the shortage of time available, it was necessary to use the second procedure.

A survey was therefore planned in which basic information was sought on the amount and type of blood and blood fractions required for present and future use and on the facilities for blood fractionation in each country. The survey, carried out with the participation of PASB local staff, included 30 countries. Data were received from 19. In assessing the information received it was evident that, with possibly one or two exceptions, the data were incomplete. However, from the data received, and from personal knowledge of the countries concerned, the following was established:

1. Records of the use of blood and its components, where kept, are generally confined to individual hospitals. Not a single country has a central source for the collection of such data.
2. With the exception of one or two countries, there appear to be no available records of imports of blood fractions such as immune serum globulins or albumin.
3. None of the countries surveyed has a national policy for the collection and distribution of blood and its components.

4. It is our considered opinion that every country in the Region will sooner or later find it desirable to establish a national policy for this purpose.

Further attempts using special consultants could be made to collect more complete information than has been made available thus far. This, however, would be time consuming and extremely expensive. Budgetary provisions would have to be made for such a study to be undertaken. We have considerable reservations whether even this type of approach would yield data any more useful than that which is already available.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The most significant point that can be drawn from this survey is the lack of national policies in the countries of the Region concerning the collection and distribution of blood and its components.

The establishment of an acceptable policy at the national level for blood collection and transfusion can present many difficulties, involving as it does medical, legal, moral and ethical problems. We would recommend that each country deal with these problems as soon as possible. PAHO, working together with national and international blood banking organizations, will be available to assist each country in the formulation of meaningful regulations and programs.

Annex



XIX PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE

XXVI REGIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING

WASHINGTON, D.C., U.S.A.

RESOLUTION

XLV

STUDY OF THE PROBLEM OF BLOOD AND ITS DERIVATIVES IN THE REGION OF THE AMERICAS

THE XIX PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE,

Considering that the establishment of blood banks and centers for the collection of blood and plasma fractions is a serious problem in the Americas, calling for special attention and study;

Recognizing that for this reason there is an urgent need for adequate knowledge of the needs of the countries of the Region, including the requirements in whole blood and blood fractions in each country, and in particular the availability of the various products such as gamma-globulin, albumin, antihemophilic factor, etc., and the possibilities of satisfying them and the problem of costs; and

Bearing in mind that within this framework it would be desirable to make a thorough study of the technical problems deriving from the establishment of blood collection centers, with a sufficiently high standard to guarantee the health of the donor and the quality of the blood and plasma collected,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau to arrange for a study of the demand for and availability of blood and blood derivatives in the Region of the Americas.
2. To recommend to the Director that he present to the Executive Committee, at its 74th Meeting, the result of the study undertaken, together with a plan of action in the event that problems should arise from the study at the Regional level.

(Approved at the twelfth plenary session,
10 October 1974)