

Change Notification for the UK Blood and Tissue Services

Notification date 20 August 2026
Effective date 17 September 2026
Implementation To be determined by each Service

CN 30-2026

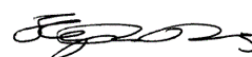
Reversible cerebral vasoconstriction syndrome (RCVS)

	Content changed	Type of change	Guidelines affected
1	Cerebrovascular disease and intracranial haemorrhage	Updated entry	Whole blood
2	Headache	Updated entry	Whole blood



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Note: this document indicates inserted and ~~deleted~~ text. This formatting will not apply in the published text.

1. Cerebrovascular disease and intracranial haemorrhage

Guidelines affected	Reason for change
Whole blood	Information about reversible cerebral vasoconstriction syndrome has been added. Search terms 'reversible cerebral vasoconstriction syndrome' and 'RCVS' will now return this entry instead of the 'Migraine' entry.

Essential information

Includes	Diseases of the vasculature of the brain. These include: - Stroke or cerebrovascular accident (haemorrhagic or embolic) - Transient ischaemic attack - Vascular dementia - Carotid artery disease - Cerebral haemorrhages and haematomas that are intracranial, subdural, subarachnoid, or epidural Reversible cerebral vasoconstriction syndrome (RCVS)
Obligatory	Must not donate.
Discretionary	- If the donor has had one or more berry aneurysms treated by interventional radiology or surgery and: - The donor has recovered from any associated subarachnoid haemorrhage, and - There is no residual neurological deficit, such as a stroke, and - Any surgery did not require the use of dural grafts and/or was performed in the UK after 1992, refer to a Designated Clinical Support Officer. - If the donor has recovered from a single episode of intracranial haemorrhage due to trauma, and: - There is no underlying cerebral or cerebrovascular disease, and - There is no underlying bleeding disorder, and - There is no residual neurological deficit, such as a stroke, accept.

3. If the donor has been diagnosed with reversible cerebral vasoconstriction syndrome (RCVS), and:
 - a. They have been recovered for at least 6 months, and
 - b. They have been fully investigated, with no further treatment or follow-up, and
 - c. There is no residual fatigue, headache, neurological deficit or cognitive impairment, and
 - d. Any associated diagnosis does not preclude donation, accept.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Central nervous system disease
- Epilepsy
- Neurosurgery
- Transfusion

Additional information

A history of thrombotic stroke or cerebral haemorrhage may increase the risk of donor adverse events. In order to reduce this risk, donors with a history of cerebrovascular disease must be deferred.

If the incident was due to trauma, and not intrinsic cerebrovascular pathology, and donor has fully recovered, it may be appropriate to accept the donor.

RCVS is a neurological condition usually characterised by sudden severe 'thunderclap' headaches, which may recur over a few days to weeks. The condition is caused by temporary vasoconstriction of cerebral blood vessels. Women are more likely to be affected than men.

Several risk factors for RCVS have been identified, including pregnancy, headache disorders, medications, illegal drugs and alcohol, head trauma, some tumours, autoimmune disorders, blood disorders and some viral infections. Although many individuals will recover completely, patients can experience serious neurological complications; for example, subarachnoid haemorrhage, ischaemic stroke or seizures. Other long-term sequelae can occur, including fatigue, persistent headaches, problems with memory and concentration, and speech problems.

Given the complexity of RCVS, referral to a Designated Clinical Support Officer may be required to establish if a donor meets the eligibility criteria listed above.

2. Headache

Guidelines affected	Reason for change
Whole blood	A 'See if relevant' link has been added to the 'Cerebrovascular disease and intracranial haemorrhage' entry.

Scenarios

▼ Occasional headache	
Discretionary	Accept.
▼ Regular headache	
Obligatory	Must not donate if: Not investigated.
Discretionary	If investigated and diagnosis does not contraindicate donation, accept.

Supporting information

See if relevant	• Cerebrovascular disease and intracranial haemorrhage • Drugs and platelet donation (drug index) • Migraine • Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs
Additional information	Headache has many causes and some will require an individual to be deferred. If a person has not been fully investigated for the cause of their headache, they may have an underlying problem that would lead to deferral.