



What is COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma?

Plasma is the liquid portion of blood. When it is collected from patients who have recovered from the novel coronavirus disease, it is known as “COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma” or “CCP.” COVID-19 patients develop antibodies--proteins developed by the immune system to help fight infections--which then circulate in the blood plasma for a period after the patient has recovered from the virus. This plasma (the fluid containing antibodies and other proteins) can be collected from a recovered patient and be either: transfused into the blood of a sick patient or further processed into a medicine that is being studied known as a Hyper-Immune Globulin (H-Ig) to help combat the virus.

Why is CCP important to fight COVID-19?

Currently, there are limited treatment options that directly combat the virus. Convalescent plasma offers one potential way to help patients fight the disease. As there are no FDA approved treatments for this disease at this time, CCP is safe and is being clinically evaluated to determine its efficacy for treatment of COVID-19.

How effective is CCP to fight COVID-19?

Studies investigating the efficacy of CCP are ongoing. Early results from the FDA’s Expanded Access Program show that CCP is safe for use in patients, but more data is being collected and analyzed to determine its efficacy. As of August 23, 2020, CCP for direct transfusion has received authorization for emergency use, while H-Ig needs to be tested in clinical trials to determine whether it is safe and effective.

Who can be a plasma Donor?

People who have fully recovered from COVID-19 and are symptom free for at least 14 days are encouraged to consider donating plasma. Individuals must meet donor criteria for blood or plasma donation, as specified by the collection facility.