Solvent/Detergent-Treated Plasma: A Virus-Inactivated Substitute for Fresh Frozen Plasma

By Bernard Horowitz, Richard Bonomo, Alfred M. Prince, Sing N. Chin, Betsy Brotman, and Richard W. Shulman

Fresh frozen plasma (FFP) is prepared in blood banks worldwide as a by-product of red blood cell concentrate preparation. Appropriate clinical use is for coagulation factor disorders where appropriate concentrates are unavailable and when multiple coagulation factor deficits occur such as in surgery. Viral safety depends on donor selection and screening; thus, there continues to be a small but defined risk of viral transmission comparable with that exhibited by whole blood. We have prepared a virus sterilized FFP (S/D-FFP) by treatment of FFP with 1% tri(n-buty1)phosphate (TNBP) and 1% Triton X-100 at 30°C for 4 hours. Added reagents are removed by extraction with soybean oil and chromatography on insolubilized C18 resin. Treatment results in the rapid and complete inactivation of \( \geq 10^8 \) infectious doses \((ID_{50})\) of vesicular stomatitis virus \((VSV)\) and \( \geq 10^8 \) ID\(_{50}\) of sindbis virus \((\text{used as marker viruses})\), \( \geq 10^{12} \) ID\(_{50}\) of human immunodeficiency virus \((\text{HIV})\), \( \geq 10^6 \) chimpanzee infectious doses \((\text{CID}_{50})\) of hepatitis B virus \((\text{HBV})\), and \( \geq 10^6 \) CID\(_{50}\) of hepatitis C virus \((\text{HCV})\). Immunization of rabbits with S/D-FFP and subsequent adsorption of elicited antibodies with untreated FFP confirmed the absence of neoimmunogen formation. Coagulation factor content was comparable with that found in FFP. Based on these laboratory and animal studies, together with the extensive history of the successful use of S/D-treated coagulation factor concentrates, we conclude that replacement of FFP with S/D-FFP, prepared in a manufacturing facility, will result in improved virus safety and product uniformity with no loss of efficacy.

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heterosexual) was contaminated with either HBV to an end concentration of 10^6 chimpanzee-infectious doses (CID_{60}) per milliliter or NANBH to an end concentration of 10^6 CID_{60} per milliliter. The virus-spiked plasma solutions were incubated in the presence of 1% TNBP and 1% Triton X-100 in a shaking water bath at 30°C for 4 hours. After 1 hour of TNBP treatment, the plasma-virus mixture was transferred to a second tube to ensure that every droplet of plasma was contacted by the TNBP. The chimpanzees were immediately inoculated without further processing of the samples.

Four chimpanzees were injected with treated plasma: two received plasma spiked with 10^6 CID_{60} of HBV and two received 10^6 CID_{60} of NANBH. Chimpanzees used for the HBV inactivation study had no previous exposure to blood products and were free of hepatitis B markers. Chimpanzees for the NANBH inactivation study had been previously injected with untreated plasma. After 9 months, the chimpanzees who received treated HBV-containing plasma were inoculated with 1 mL of the untreated inoculum containing 10^6 CID_{60} of HBV. After 6 months, the chimpanzees injected with treated NANBH-containing plasma received 1 mL of the untreated inoculum containing 10^6 CID_{60} of NANBH. All chimpanzees were observed for an additional 6 months. Weekly sera were assayed for ALT, aspartate aminotransferase, HBsAg, anti-HBs, and anti-HBc. Bimonthly Menghini needle liver biopsies were examined by both light and electron microscopy.

Preparation of S/D-plasma. FFP was thawed rapidly and treated with stirring for 4 hours with 1% (vol/vol) TNBP and 1% (vol/vol) Triton X-100 at 30°C. After treatment, soybean oil (50% vol/vol) was added, mixed gently for 30 minutes, and then removed by centrifugation at 10,000g for 20 minutes. The clarified plasma was then applied to a column of Waters Prep C18 resin such that the ratio of plasma to column volume was 6 and the contact time was 3 minutes. The column eluate was filtered on a 0.2-μm filter.

Neuimmunogenicity. New Zealand white rabbits were immunized with S/D-plasma. Each animal was injected subcutaneously on three occasions at 2-week intervals; the first inoculum was emulsified with Freund's complete adjuvant and the subsequent ones with Freund's incomplete adjuvant. To determine whether S/D-plasma elicited antibody nonreactive with untreated plasma, antisera from each animal were collected immediately preceding each injection (bleeds 1 to 3) and for additional times over the subsequent 3 months. Antisera were analyzed by the Ouchterlony technique and by neutralizing crossed immunoelectrophoresis. In the latter case, anti–S/D-plasma was incubated with plasma in a test tube. After removal of the precipitate, remaining soluble antibody was incorporated into a gel to be used as the second dimension of a crossed immunoelectrophoresis. As a control, chicken albumin was added to the anti-S/D-plasma used as the sample for electrophoresis and antichicken albumin was added at the outset of the experiment to the anti-S/D-plasma samples.

Assays. Coagulation factor activity for FVIII, FIX, and FXI was determined by one-stage activated partial thromboplastin time clotting assay, which measures the degree of correction of the clotting time of factor-deficient plasma (George King Biomedical, Overland Park, KS) in the presence of APTT reagent (Organon-Teknika, Durham, NC). FV activity was assessed similarly, except thromboplastin with calcium (Sigma Diagnostics, St Louis, MO) replaced the APTT reagent.

TNBP was quantitated after hexane extraction by gas chromatography using a 0.25-in by 2 mm ID by 4-ft glass column packed with 10% SP-1000 on an 80/100 mesh Supelcoport (Supelco, Bellefonte, PA). Triton X-100 was assayed by first extracting it from plasma using a Prep C18 column, eluting with 75% isopropanol, concentrating the eluate with a Speed Vac concentrator (Savant, Farmingdale, NY), diluting the concentrate fivefold with water, and subjecting this sample to high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) on a 3.9 x 300 mm Bondapak C18 column (Waters) with a Hewlett Packard HP1090 HPLC apparatus (Palo Alto, CA) and the UV detector set at 230 nm. The column was eluted with a water/isopropanol linear gradient.

RESULTS

Marker virus inactivation. The inactivation of all detectable VSV and Sindbis virus added to plasma on treatment with 1% TNBP and 1% Triton X-100 at 30°C was very rapid, occurring within 15 minutes (Fig 1). Total demonstrated inactivation was ≥10^3 tissue culture infectious doses (TCID_{60}) for VSV and ≥10^6 TCID_{60} for Sindbis virus. Use of 0.3% TNBP or a reaction temperature of 24°C resulted in a substantially slower rate of inactivation of
VSV (data not shown). Inactivation of each of these marker viruses on treatment of plasma under our selected conditions was faster than that observed on treatment of an antihemophilic factor (AHF) concentrate with 0.3% TNBP and 0.2% sodium cholate at 30°C or 0.3% TNBP and 1% Tween 80 and 24°C, the conditions in common use today for coagulation factor concentrates (Fig 1). Excellent inactivation of VSV occurred even when added to overtly lipemic plasma. In this case, a small quantity (10^6 TCID_{50}) of residual VSV and Sindbis virus was detected after 15 but not after 30 minutes of treatment (data not shown).

**HIV.** HIV, > 10^6 TCID_{50}, was inactivated on treatment of plasma with 1% TNBP and 1% Triton X-100 at 30°C for 4 hours (Table 1). A separate experiment showed that HIV inactivation was complete to the limit of detection on exposure to the S/D reagents at the earliest timepoint taken, 1 hour. Additionally, HIV (10^4 TCID_{50}) was removed from plasma on exposure to Waters C18 Prep gel, the resin used in the removal of both TNBP and Triton X-100 during routine processing of S/D-plasma. Thus, the combined efficacy was > 10^8 TCID_{50}.

**HBV.** HBV (10^4 CID_{50}/mL) added to plasma was treated with 1% TNBP and 1% Triton X-100 at 30°C for 4 hours, after which 10 mL was injected immediately into each of two animals. Neither animal developed signs of hepatitis through the initial period of follow-up: 28 weeks for chimpanzee 326, which died of an anesthesia-related incident, and 36 weeks for chimpanzee 327 (Fig 2). The low level of anti-HBs reactivity observed is not considered significant. Following challenge of chimpanzee 327 with the untreated inoculum, 10^9 CID_{50} of HBV, a sharp increase in serum ALT level and the appearance of anti-HBs were observed.

**HCV.** HCV (10^9 CID_{50}/mL) added to plasma was treated in the manner described for HBV, after which 10 mL was immediately injected into two chimpanzees each. The two animals receiving HCV spiked plasma were monitored for indications of hepatitis transmission for 32 weeks. Throughout this period, serum ALT levels remained below 2 times the upper limit of normal, antibody to the C-100 protein of HCV was undetectable, and liver histology (light and electron microscopy) was normal (Fig 3). To confirm the susceptibility of the animals to HCV, an untreated sample was injected, using an HCV dose of 10^9 CID_{50}/animal. Both animals developed signs of HCV infection, indicating susceptibility. Chimpanzee 299 had evidence of a transient, though sharp increase in serum ALT level, and Pfieffer structures types I to IV were observed on examination of liver biopsies by electron microscopy. Anti-HCV (C100) was not observed. Chimpanzee 298 had evidence of a transient, though sharp increase in serum ALT level, and Pfieffer structures types I to IV were observed on examination of liver biopsies by electron microscopy. Anti-HCV (C100) was not observed. Chimpanzee 298 exhibited Pfieffer structures 4 to 14 weeks after challenge and subsequently developed detectable anti-HCV (C100).

### Table 1. Inactivation of HIV Added to Plasma

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>HIV Titer (log_{10} TCID_{50})</th>
<th>HIV Kill or Removal (log_{10} TCID_{50})</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Untreated control</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-h incubation, S/D omitted, C18 adsorbed</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-h incubation, S/D treated, C18 adsorbed</td>
<td>&lt;0</td>
<td>&gt;7.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HIV, added to plasma, was either mock treated (30°C for 4 hours; top line), mock treated and adsorbed with C18 resin (second line), or treated with 1% TNBP and 1% Triton X-100 at 30°C for 4 hours, after which it was adsorbed with C18 resin (third line). Undiluted and 10-fold serial dilutions of each sample were assayed for infectious HIV as described in Materials and Methods.

### Fig 2. Course of two chimpanzees inoculated with 10^9 CID_{50} of HBV in TNBP/Triton-treated plasma and then challenged with untreated inoculum containing 10^9 CID_{50}. Samples taken at the indicated times were analyzed for markers of hepatitis: liver histology, HBsAg, anti-HBs, anti-HBe, and ALT. Open boxes indicate negative results, boxes with a diagonal line a borderline result, and solid boxes a positive result. ULN denotes the upper limit of normal in ALT values for that animal, as determined before the start of the experiment on 16 separate serum samples.
SOLVENT/DETERGENT-TREATED PLASMA

SOLVENT/DETERGENT-TREATED PLASMA

TNBP/TRITON TREATED PLASMA WITH
$10^5$ CI$\text{D}_{50}$ HCV

CHALLENGE WITH
$10^5$ CI$\text{D}_{50}$ HCV

CHIMP 299

A

EM
HISTOLOGY
ANTI-C-100

- 2 x ULN

ALT (U/L)

ULN

WEEKS

Fig 3. Course of two chimpanzees inoculated with $10^5$ CI$\text{D}_{50}$ of HCV in TNBP/Triton-treated plasma and then challenged with untreated inoculum containing $10^5$ CI$\text{D}_{50}$. Samples taken at the indicated times were analyzed for markers of hepatitis; liver histology by light and electron microscopy, anti-HCV (C-100), and ALT. Other details as in Fig 2.

showed a recovery of 87%, 88%, 99%, and 108%, respectively. Prothrombin times and APTT values were normal, varying in four consecutive lots from 10.5 to 12.1 seconds and 32.0 to 33.8 seconds, respectively. These results suggest that contact factor activation is not encountered during processing. Moreover, factor XII levels were normal (0.78 to 0.88 U/mL; n = 3) in S/D-plasma prepared by Octa-

Table 2. Recovery of Selected Coagulation Factors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Start (U/mL)</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>End (U/mL)</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>Recovery (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Factor V</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>0.07</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.72</td>
<td>0.07</td>
<td></td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Factor VIII</td>
<td>0.93</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.82</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td></td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Factor IX</td>
<td>0.98</td>
<td>0.07</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td></td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Factor XI</td>
<td>0.86</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.93</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td></td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FFP (15 to 20 L) as thawed, treated with 1% TNBP and 1% Triton X-100 at 30°C for at least 4 hours, and passed through a column of Waters C18 Prep Gel as described in Materials and Methods. Coagulation factor activities of the freshly thawed plasma and the C18 eluate were measured and compared (n = 4; SD = standard deviation).

pharma (Vienna, Austria; personal communication H. Schwinn, September 1991). At the 20-L scale, processing resulted in about a 20% loss in plasma volume.

Absence of neoimmunogenicity. S/D-plasma injected into each of three rabbits did not elicit an antibody reactive with S/D-plasma that did not react with untreated plasma, as judged by the Ouchterlony technique (Fig 4) or by neutralizing crossed immunoelectrophoresis (Fig 5).

Removal of TNBP and Triton X-100 by C18 chromatography. S/D-treated plasma was extracted with 5% soybean oil, subjected to centrifugation at 10,000g for 10 minutes to remove lipid, and then applied to a column (14 x 14 cm) of Waters C18 Prep resin. With a contact time of 3 minutes, ≤2 μg/mL of either TNBP or Triton X-100 was present in the eluate when as much as 6 column volumes of plasma

Fig 4. Ouchterlony analysis of S/D-plasma. Rabbit antibodies raised against S/D-plasma (center wells) were allowed to react with serial dilutions of untreated plasma and S/D-plasma alternating in wells at the circumference. Sera from the fifth bleed from each of the three immunized rabbits (numbers 6867, 6868, and 6869) were used.
DISCUSSION

Approximately 2 million units of FFP are used in the United States each year. While it is generally conceded that much of this usage is inappropriate, a Consensus Conference sponsored by the National Heart Lung Blood Institute concluded that FFP is useful in the treatment of coagulation factor disorders where appropriate concentrates are unavailable and when multiple coagulation factor deficits occur, such as in surgery. Since that meeting, FFP usage in the United States has remained essentially constant. If FFP is to be transfused, it should be made as safe as possible even while efforts continue to eliminate inappropriate usage.

We have now shown that treatment of pooled plasma with 1% TNBP and 1% Triton X-100 for 4 hours at 30°C inactivates $\geq 10^6$ CID$_{50}$ of HBV, $\geq 10^5$ CID$_{50}$ of HCV, and $\geq 10^6$ TCID$_{50}$ of HIV. Subsequent exposure to the C18 column used to remove TNBP and Triton X-100 was shown to remove an additional $10^8$ TCID$_{50}$ of HIV. Furthermore, because the rate of inactivation of VSV is faster in this system than observed on treatment of an AHF concentrate with either 0.3% TNBP and 0.2% sodium cholate at 30°C or 0.3% TNBP and 1% Tween 80 at 24°C (conditions in use worldwide), it seems likely that S/D-plasma will enjoy the same record of virus safety.

While considerable data support the effectiveness of the S/D approach against lipid-enveloped viruses, nonenveloped viruses, should they be present, would not be inactivated. The example most frequently raised in this context is parvovirus B19. Fortunately, B19 infections are self-limiting and largely asymptomatic. While not considered to be a serious threat in most transfusion settings, antiparvovirus antibody expected to be present in more than half of the units might effectively inactivate the rare unit containing parvovirus, depending on the respective titers of antibody and antigen. This conclusion seems plausible because routinely prepared IVIG preparations have been shown to neutralize parvovirus in vitro and in vivo.

The protein content of S/D-plasma prepared from large pools of FFP appears to be normal in all respects. Initial preparation at the 20-L scale resulted in excellent maintenance of the levels of coagulation factors V, VIII, IX, and XI, and of PT and APTT values. Neomonomonogens were absent when analyzed in a rabbit model. Additionally, the considerable worldwide experience with S/D-treated products indicates that the proteins present in S/D-plasma will circulate and function normally in vivo.

Finally, it should be noted that TNBP and Triton X-100 were efficiently removed by the described process. Residual values were $\leq 2 \mu g/mL$ of each when processing at the 20-L scale, and always $\leq 10 \mu g/mL$ when processing was performed at larger scale. If present at $10 \mu g/mL$, a 70-kg man receiving 2 L of S/D-plasma could potentially be exposed to 0.29 mg/kg body weight. This is more than 2 orders of magnitude lower than the reported lowest effect dose on intraperitoneal injection of TNBP into mice and intravenous injection of Triton X-100 into mice. Results on the acute toxicity of TNBP and Triton X-100 in mice and rats from studies jointly sponsored by the New York Blood Center and Octapharma (Dusseldorf, Germany) conducted by the Laboratory of Pharmacology and Toxicology (Hamburg, Germany) are in accord with these earlier, published studies (unpublished results, October 1991). Soybean oil is...
with the use of the Prep C18 resin. It is prepared by reaction for total parenteral nutrition. It consists almost entirely of used as a principal ingredient in lipid emulsions designed
between octadecyldimethyl silanol and the silica backbone. Information from the manufacturer (Millipore Corp, Waters Chromatography Division) indicates that leakage of this functional group should be very low, and none was normally found in plasma. Toxicity should not be associated with the use of the Prep C18 resin. It is prepared by reaction between octadecyldimethyl silanol and the silica backbone. We thank Tellervo Huima for her meticulous electron microscopy; Donna Pascual, Bolanle Williams, and Eleanor Chimezie for assessing HIV, Sindbis virus, and VSV inactivation; Edwin Seda for his support in caring for and handling the rabbits during the immunogenicity test; Maureen Brogan for her dedication and technical skill in studying the structure and function of treated proteins and in optimizing the use of the C18 resin; and Marcia Franklin-Henry for her expert preparation of the manuscript.

REFERENCES

15. Risks associated with human parvovirus B19 infection. MMWR 38:81, 1989

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