Demographic Distribution and Prevalence of ABO and Rhesus Blood Groups in Blood Donors: Study from a Tertiary Care Centre in Southern Region of Andhra Pradesh

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Abstract

Introduction: ABO and Rhesus (Rh) blood grouping and typing are the two main pillars of foundation for appropriate functioning and safe blood banking. The blood groups carry genetic information. Among twenty discovered blood group systems ABO and Rh remain as the most important ones clinically.

Materials and Methods: A retrospective study was carried with 43839 blood donors' records. The blood group was determined by forward grouping (cell grouping) and reverse (serum grouping) grouping methods. Gene / allelic frequencies of the variables were calculated.

Results: Total number of blood units collected was 43839; from January 2012 to December 2017. The study showed there were 93.37% of male donors and 6.62% of female donors. The percentage of ABO blood groups in descending order in present study is noticed as O>B>A>AB. There were 95.96% of Rh positive and only 4.03% of Rh negative blood units. Allele distribution was calculated for I^A (p); I^B (q) and I^O (r) as 0.0525; 0.2723 and 0.6752 respectively.

Conclusion: The most common blood group - 'O' Positive (44.53%) and the least common was 'AB' Negative (0.51%). The data helps in appropriate maintenance of inventory in the blood bank and also helps health care professionals to formulate proper steps to ensure accurate blood transfusion protocol, safe blood transfusion during any sort of health challenges and calamities.

Key words: ABO & Rh blood group, allele, blood, donor, gene

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I. Introduction

ABO and Rhesus (Rh) blood grouping and typing is most important mode of evaluation of blood group in an individual. Discovery of ABO blood groups by Karl Landsteiner is an initial breakthrough in field of transfusion medicine which was followed by discovery of Rh antigens[1,2].

The blood groups carry genetic information and the antigens are transmitted hereditarily. A blood group not only plays a major role in safe transfusion but also helps us in understanding genetics, pattern of inheritance and disease susceptibility[3].

Even though there are more than twenty discovered blood group systems. ABO and Rh remain as the most important ones clinically. The frequency of ABO and Rh - D phenotypes has been studied in different populations and groups with extensive statistical analysis. There are also evidences showing that, a different blood group in particular shows association with different diseases[4].

The ABO blood group system is the only system in which antibodies are consistently and predictably present in the serum of normal individuals whose red cells lack antigens. Apart from differences amongst species, differences between the individuals of same species also have been noticed. Rh blood group system is equally important and is a prime essentiality in obstetrics. Hemolytic disease of newborn is one of the gravest diseases which need immediate care, evaluation and management[5].

The study is formulated in order to secure more number of blood units which are needed and to have sufficient supply of demanding blood group units which in turn helps in reducing hospital deaths due to maternal ill health, accidents and mishaps.

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II. Materials and Methods

A retrospective study was carried out with 43839 blood donors' records. All the donors were between 18-60 years of age. The study subjects have donated blood in Model Blood Bank, S.V.R.R. Government General Hospital, Tirupati and in voluntary blood donation camps organized from January 2012 to December 2017 i.e., for seven years. Each and every donor was thoroughly counseled and examined along with a record of personal data of the individual. The blood group of donated blood was determined by forward grouping (cell grouping) and reverse (serum grouping) grouping methods. Forward grouping was performed with the help of anti sera of ABO and Rh blood groups and reverse grouping was performed by conventional tube method from pilot samples of the donors. Standard operative procedures accepted and authorized by hospital authorities were followed for the procedures. Final blood group was established after both forward and reverse groping are found out to be the same of a particular sample.

The "O" blood group donors were tested with anti-H Lectin to rule out Bombay blood group. Frequency and percentage of each variable was calculated and 95% confidence intervals were also evaluated using Fisher exact (clopper – Pearson) for the proportions of each blood group to the total available sample for appropriate definition of normal range.

Hardy Weinberg equilibrium with Ceppilini corrections was used as standard assumption to evaluate gene / allelic frequencies of the variables.

III. Results

Total number of donors registered was 43839, from January 2012 to December 2017. There was no particular trend in number of blood units collected and groups noticed during the study. The distribution, total collection of blood units with respect to ABO, Rh grouping and typing with 95% confidence intervals is tabulated in **Table no. 1**.

The study revealed that, there were 93.37% of male donors and 6.62% of female donors. There is a gradual increase in female donors from 2012 to 2017; where in during 2017 there were 670 (1.34%) of the total number of donors.

Table no: 1. Prevalence of ABO blood groups and Rh factor. Year wise collection with 95% confidence limits of individual blood groups.

Year	Rh Positive Blood groups				Rh Negative Blood groups						
	A positive	B positive	O positive	AB positive	TOTAL Rh positive	A negative	B negative	O negative	AB negative	TOTAL Rh negative	Grand Total per year
2012	488	2347	3436	532	6803	63	188	144	40	435	7238
2013	478	2903	3104	120	6605	18	104	71	12	205	6810
2014	388	3123	3344	112	6967	32	121	64	36	253	7220
2015	410	2990	3997	290	7687	28	142	51	34	255	7942
2016	275	3257	3312	235	7349	64	171	72	48	355	7704
2017	742	2998	2331	590	6661	78	67	63	56	264	6925
Total	2781 (6.34%)	17888 (40.80%)	19524 (44.53%)	1879 (4.28%)	42072 (95.96%)	283 (0.64%)	793 (1.80%)	465 (1.06%)	226 (0.51%)	1767 (4.03%)	43839 (100%)
Confidence limits (95%)	(2.81- 12.6)	(31.26- 50.28)	(35.03- 54.28)	(1.643- 9.925)	(91.48- 97.77)	0.02531 -3.622)	(0.243- 5.446)	(0.243- 5.446)	(0.0254- 3.622)	(1.644- 9.926)	

Confidence limits [95% Fisher Exact (Clopper Pearson)] for the proportions of each blood group to the total available sample (population under study)...

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The percentage of ABO blood groups in descending order in present study is noticed as O>B>A>AB. ABO & Rh grouping of collected blood units is tabulated in **Table no. 2.**

The distribution of ABO Rh positive blood groups observed was as follows – O positive (44.53%); B positive (40.80%); A positive (6.34%); AB positive (4.28%); which accounts for 95.96% of Rh positive blood units. The distribution of ABO Rh negative blood groups was as follows – B negative (1.80%); O negative (1.06%); A negative – (0.64%); and AB negative (0.51%); which accounts for only 4.03% of Rh negative blood units. The data with respect to ABO, Rh group of blood and gender distribution is tabulated in **Table no. 3.**

The gene frequencies of ABO and Rh blood group are calculated using Hardy Weinberg equation and the respective frequencies and outcome are depicted in **Table no. 4 & 5.**

Table no: 2. ABO & Rh group wise distribution of blood units

ABO Blood Group	Rh Positive (%)	Rh Negative (%)	Total ABO (%)	(%)
'A'	2781 (90.76)	283 (9.23)	3064 (100)	6.98
'B'	17888 (95.75)	793 (4.24)	18681 (100)	42.61
,O,	19524 (97.67)	465 (2.32)	19989 (100)	45.59
'AB'	1879 (89.26)	226 (10.73)	2105 (100)	4.80
'D' (Rh positive)	42072 (95.96)	-	-	95.96
'd' (Rh negative)	-	1767 (4.03)	-	4.03
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Grand Total	43839 (100)			100

Table no: 3. Gender wise distribution of ABO & Rh blood groups

Blood group	Male	e (%)	Female (%		Total (%	(a)			
<u> </u>	Rh Positive Blood groups								
A Positive	2321	(5.29)	460 (3.87)		2781 (6.3	4)			
B Positive	16524	(37.69)	1364 (3.1	1)	17888 (40.80)				
O Positive	18821	(42.93)	703 (1.60)	19524 (44.	53)			
AB Positive	1700	(3.87)	179 (0.40)	1879 (4.2	8)			
Total Rh Positive	39366	(89379)	2706 (6.1	7)	42072 (95.96)				
		Rh Negative Bloc	od groups						
A Negative	A Negative 251 (0.57) 32 (0.07)		283 (0.64)						
B Negative	721 (1.64)		72 (0.16)		793 (1.80)				
O Negative	ive 396 (0.90)		69 (0.15)		465 (1.06)				
AB Negative	AB Negative 199 (0.45)		27 (0.06)		226 (0.51)				
Total Rh Negative	1567 (3.57)		200 (0.45)		1767 (4.03)				
		T		ı		T			
	Total no. Males	40933 (93.37)	Total no. Females	2906 (6.62)	Grand Total	43839 (100)			

IV. Discussion

The present study regarding distribution of blood groups helps us to ensure and follow safe blood transfusion and protocol respectively. This also plays an essential role in human evolution, genetic research etc[6,7]. There is a quite good evidence that, individuals with particular blood groups are associated with selective diseases like diabetes mellitus, duodenal ulcer, Rh and ABO incompatibility of new born etc.,[2]. In present study male donors are at an upper hand compared to female donors which was also seen in studies carried out by Giri P A et al[8], Patel Piyush et al[9], Teklu Zerihun et al[10], Soonam John[11] and many other research workers. The current study confirms that, "O" groups is most common ABO in our local demographic area and it was a similar finding in studies performed by various researchers in southern part of India (O<B<A<AB). But, the distribution of blood groups in various other zones is different and follows different trends. The findings of various researchers in comparison with present study are tabulated in **Table no. 6.**

Table no: 4. ABO & Rh Allele frequency distribution

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ABO & Rh (D) allele	Designated alphabet	Nomenclature	Allele frequency						
'A' allele	(p)	$\mathbf{I}^{\mathbf{A}}$	0.0525						
'B' allele	(q)	I_B	0.2723						
'O' allele	(r)	I_0	0.6752						
'D' allele	(v)	$\mathbf{I}^{\mathbf{D}}$	0.7993						
'd' allele	(u)	$\mathbf{I}^{\mathbf{d}}$	0.2007						

Table no: 5. Comparison of observed and expected phenotype frequency among blood donors (with calculations and formulae)

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Blood group system	Phenotype	Observed frequency	Genotype		Expected f	frequency		
		0.0698	AA	\mathbf{p}^2	0.0027	0.0735		
	A	0.0098	AO	2pr	0.0708	0.0735		
ARO	В	0.4261	BB	\mathbf{q}^2	0.0741	0.4410		
ABO		0.4261	ВО	2qr	0.3677	0.4418		
	0	0.4559	00	\mathbf{r}^2	0.4558	0.4558		
	AB	0.0480	AB	2pq	0.0285	0.0285		
	D	0.9596	DD	\mathbf{v}^2	0.6388	0.9596		
Rh	D positive	uve 0.9590	Dd	2uv	0.3208	0.9590		
	d negative	0.0403	dd	\mathbf{u}^2	0.0402	0.0402		

The study revealed that 95.96% of blood donors are Rh positive for D-antigen. Only 4.03% showed Rh negativity. Rh D positivity is found in the range of 92% to 98% across India in different studies[15]. In present study gene frequencies were calculated for I^A (p); I^B (q) and I^O (r) as 0.0525; 0.2723 and 0.6752 respectively. We compared our findings with other studies carried out by Sidhu (2003)[26]; Agarwal et al [27] (2014); Suresh et al [14] (2015) and Raja K.A [19] (2016). The findings correlated with all above studies and are tabulated in **Table no. 7.**

V. Conclusion

There is heterogeneity of blood groups around the world in different parts. The might be due to various genetic and environmental factors. A large population based study of a particular geographic area will help in deriving the essential steps to ensure safe and efficient transfusion protocol. The studies also help to ascertain optimum inventory management and selection of appropriate donors as per the needs of the blood bank without wasting surplus blood units. The knowledge of blood groups also helps in clinical trials and studies; forensic related issues etc. These sorts of studies are really essential to curtail deaths due to excessive blood loss, maternal and child health related problems – thus, opening an access to safe and sufficient supply of blood.

Table no: 6. Comparison of prevalence and distribution of ABO and Rh blood groups in different regions of India and with different countries

Geographic Area	Geographic Area Location / Place					Rhesus Group		
	(Author, Year of study)							
		A	В	0	AB	Pos. (+)	Neg. (-)	
Southern India	Tirupati (Present study, 2017)	6.98	42.61	45.59	4.80	95.96	4.03	
	Bengaluru (Periyavan A et al 2010) [12]	23.8	30.0	39.8	6.4	94.2	5.8	
	Shimoga (Girish CJ et al, 2011) [13]	24.3	29.4	39.1	7.1	94.9	5.1	
	Tirupati (Suresh et al, 2015) [14]	21.1	40.8	30.5	7.6	91.4	8.6	
Northern India	Lucknow (Chandra et al, 2012) [15]	21.7	39.8	39.1	9.3	95.7	4.3	
	Amritsar (Kaur H et al, 2013) [16]	18.0	38.1	34.3	9.6	91.3	8.7	
	Uttarakhand (ParulGarg et al, 2014) [17]	28.7	32.0	28.7	10.5	94.5	5.5	
Central India	Bhopal (Rajesh et al, 2015) [4]	22.52	35.92	30.99	10.55	95.42	4.57	
Eastern India	Durgapur (Nag et al, 2013) [18]	23.90	33.60	34.80	7.70	94.70	5.30	
Western India	Surat (Raja KA et al, 2016) [19]	24.35	34.43	32.26	8.94	95.12	4.87	
	Gandhinagar (Rupali et al, 2017) [20]	25.19	35.65	29.11	10.05	94.9	5.1	
International	Nepal (Pramanik et al, 2000) [21]	34.00	29.50	32.50	4.00	96.70	3.30	
	Saudi Arabia (Bashwari et al, 2001) [22]	24.00	17.00	52.00	7.00	93.00	7.00	
USA (Frances TF, 2002) [23]		41.00	9.00	46.00	4.00	85.00	15.00	
	Pakistan (Rahman M et al, 2004) [24]	28.70	32.40	30.50	8.40	93.00	7.00	
	Britain (Firkin F et al, 2008) [25]	42.00	8.00	47.00	3.00	83.00	17.00	

Table no: 7. ABO & Rhesus gene frequency distribution in different research studies

Author (year of study)	Calculated ABO & Rhesus gene frequencies					
	$\mathbf{I}^{\mathbf{A}}$	$\mathbf{I}^{\mathbf{B}}$	Io	I_D	\mathbf{I}^{d}	
Present study (2017)	0.0525	0.2723	0.6752	0.7993	0.2007	
Sidhu S et al (2003) [26]	0.171	0.27	0.559	0.836	0.164	
AmitAgarwal et al (2014) [27]	0.1653	0.2254	0.6093	0.7679	0.2321	
Suresh et al (2015) [14]	0.1398	0.2148	0.6454	0.7321	0.2679	
Raja KA et al (2016) [19]	0.1844	0.2477	0.5679	0.7794	0.2206	

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