

## **Knowledge, Perceptions and Attitude towards Autologus Transfusion**

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**Background:** Autologous transfusion is the rein fusion of blood or blood components, from a donor back into his or her own circulation. Autologous blood transfusions, although there are limitations, pose no greater risk to the donor than donating for use by another person. Autologous blood can be collected for use in planned surgical procedures, or through the salvage of blood lost during surgery or following trauma or by shunting the patient's blood in a machine during surgery and returning the same to the patient at the end of the procedure.

**Objectives:** To determine (1) The Knowledge perceptions and attitudes towards 'autologous' transfusion in Trinidad and Tobago.

**Design:** The study consisted of 150 participants of which 88 were female and 62 were male. The age group of participants ranged from 18 years to 55 years, who were questioned. This complied with the legal age limits of persons who can give blood, which is 18 years to 60 years old. Data was obtained via a questionnaire, and was evaluated by the T-Test.

**Results:** The information obtained showed that 80% of the participants were less than 45 years of age, with the Afro Trinidadian female represented by 80%.

The gender differences in the female and male population as far as smoking and drinking was insignificant, p value =0.96. The population was free from chronic disease and high blood pressure at 11.4%, p value>0.51%.

**Conclusion:** There was significance where the males were 2.6 times more likely to take iron supplements (95% CI 1.3, 5.0, p=0.008). More females consider giving blood, females 93.2%, males, 80.6% p-value=0.02. Significance was shown in the need of an adequate blood count for 'autologous' transfusion. Females, 79.5%, males, 79% , p value=0.04