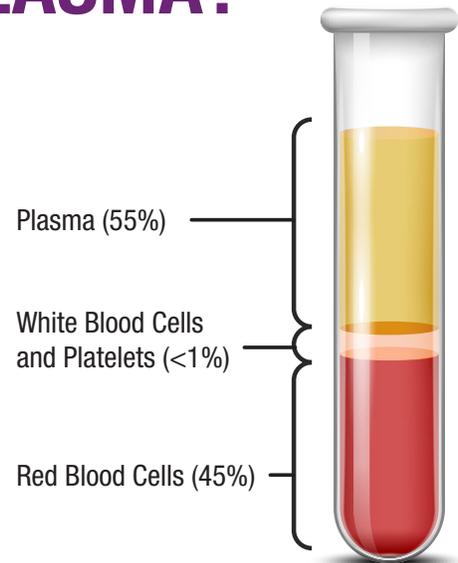


WHAT IS CONVALESCENT PLASMA?

Convalescent plasma is obtained from people who have recovered from a disease. Their plasma, which is the liquid portion of blood, is presumed to have antibodies against that disease. It is thought that these antibodies may help treat patients who are not able to fight the corresponding infection.

Plasma is the liquid part of blood and can be collected by plasmapheresis, a process that separates plasma from the other parts of whole blood such as red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets. The plasma can be collected while the remaining cells are returned to the donor. Convalescent plasma has been used and studied for over 100 years to fight polio, influenza, Ebola, and now COVID-19.



SAFETY AND EFFICACY OF CONVALESCENT PLASMA THERAPY AS TREATMENT FOR COVID-19**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has given COVID-19 convalescent plasma (CCP) therapy Emergency Authorization for use on people infected with the COVID-19. CCP therapy may be given to people who are hospitalized with COVID-19 in attempt to lessen the severity or shorten the duration of the illness.

There is ongoing research about which patients benefit the most from receiving CCP. The available data suggests that CCP is most effective when it contains sufficiently high concentrations of COVID-19 antibodies and is given early in the course of the disease, particularly within 3 days of COVID-19 diagnosis or hospital admission. The FDA recommends starting with one CCP unit and providing additional units based on the patient's response to CCP and considering any underlying medical conditions.

For more information and to get involved:
www.ascp.org/patients

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 @ASCPChampions

 Champions@ascp.org

REQUIREMENTS TO DONATE CONVALESCENT PLASMA**

- Individual must have had a prior diagnosis of COVID-19 documented by a FDA approved, cleared, or authorized diagnostic test
- Individuals without a prior diagnostic test may donate if they are positive for SARS-CoV-2 antibodies determined by a FDA approved, cleared, or authorized diagnostic test
- Individuals must have complete resolution of symptoms for at least 14 days prior to donation (some centers may require individuals to be symptom free for 28 days)
- Individual must feel healthy on the day of donation
- Female donors with a history of pregnancy will require a negative test result for HLA antibodies, a cell marker called human leukocyte antigen
- The minimum age to donate in most states is 16 or 17 years-old

To check your eligibility to donate visit www.covidplasma.org.

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN DONATING PLASMA

- Plasmapheresis takes an average of 60-90 minutes
- Approximately 200-600 cc of plasma are collected with apheresis devices
- Donors are monitored for 15 minutes after the donation is complete
- You are typically eligible to donate again after 28 days

REQUIREMENTS TO RECEIVE CONVALESCENT PLASMA**

- Patient must be hospitalized with a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis
- CCP is available for adult and pediatric patients
- Patient displays severe symptoms caused by COVID-19



ASCP Patient Champion Linda is pictured making her 5th convalescent plasma donation after being diagnosed with COVID-19 in March 2020.

*The U.S. FDA has given CCP therapy Emergency Authorization for use on people infected with the COVID-19. Health care providers and facilities are required to obtain plasma from an FDA registered or licensed blood establishment in order to administer to patients.

**Information sourced from "Clarifying the Emergency Use Authorization Framework for COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma: Considerations for Clinicians" prepared by the [Infectious Diseases Society of America](#) and [AABB](#) (November 18, 2020).

MEET LINDA

Linda is a family practice physician who was diagnosed with COVID-19 in March of 2020. As a complication of coronavirus, she was diagnosed with pneumonia and hospitalized to be treated with antibiotics and oxygen. Four days later, she was discharged to recover at home. Fully recovered 6 weeks later, Linda made her first convalescent COVID-19 donation and has donated six more times since to help others recover from COVID-19.

To learn more and watch a video about Linda, go to www.ascp.org/patients.



“I still have antibodies after more than 7 months of recovery! There aren’t as many as there was immediately post-illness, but they’re still hanging in there for now. Maybe it’s a testament to how sick I actually was.”