

AIHA CASE #2

1. What antibody(ies) is present? Is this an allo- or auto-antibody? Could it be due to one of the patient's medicines?

This patient appears to have a warm-reactive auto-antibody on his RBCs but not in the serum. Drug related antibodies typically react only with drug coated RBCs or in the presence of the drug. However, aldomet, and a few other drugs not including the ones that he is on, can cause an antibody which reacts in the absence of drug. When aldomet is stopped, the antibody gradually disappears.

2. How would you select blood for this patient?

No special selection of units is required. Since there is no antibody detectable in the serum, we would simply select units compatible in an AHG crossmatch.

3. What is a "last wash" test? What does it demonstrate?

The last wash test is a screen for RBC-reactive antibody in supernatant decanted from the RBCs after the last wash prior to performing the elution. In cases in which there is antibody detectable in the serum, the test demonstrates that washing has been sufficient to remove all of the serum antibody, so that one knows that any antibody recovered in the eluate is indeed from the RBCs.