

**Doctor:** Good morning Mr. Chase. How are you feeling today?

**Patient:** Not good doctor. I feel weak.

**Doctor:** I'm sorry to hear that. Actually, you lost a large amount of blood yesterday during your surgery. I had your CBC checked and the results showed that your hemoglobin is way below the normal range.

**Patient:** What do you mean by that doctor?

**Doctor:** The hemoglobin level reflects the oxygen-carrying capacity of red blood cells in your blood. These red blood cells are responsible for carrying oxygen which is distributed all throughout your body. With the right amount of oxygen, your body is able to perform its function well. Decreased hemoglobin means there is decreased capacity of oxygen-carrying red blood cells which also means your body is not getting enough oxygen as it should.

**Patient:** Is that the reason I feel weak doctor?

**Doctor:** Yes. It is one of the reasons.

**Patient:** How can we make the hemoglobin level go higher doctor?

**Doctor:** That is the reason why I am here Mr. Chase. I need to talk to you about getting a blood transfusion.

**Patient:** Blood transfusion? You mean to say, I will be given blood from someone else?

**Doctor:** Yes.

**Patient:** Do I really have to do it doctor? Isn't that risky?

**Doctor:** Well, we can give you iron supplement but that takes more time to work. In your case Mr. Chase, a blood transfusion is highly recommended. We need to normalize your hemoglobin level so that you will recover faster from the surgery. What is it you are afraid of Mr. Chase?

**Patient:** I'm afraid I might contract diseases like Hepatitis or AIDS from the blood. I mean, I don't know the person who owns the blood.

**Doctor:** I understand your concern Mr. Chase. But the fact is, the blood is screened prior to transfusion. This means that the donated blood is tested for infections based on the current protocol. If the donated blood fails any of the tests, it will not be used for transfusion.

**Patient:** I see. That was a relief doctor.

**Doctor:** Good to hear that. Now Mr. Chase, do you consent having a blood transfusion?

**Patient:** There is nothing I can do, can't I?

**Doctor:** (smiles) Very well then. I will check with the laboratory if they have blood available. After that, your blood will be crossmatched with the donated blood. If everything turns out well, we will begin your transfusion as soon as the blood is ready.

**Patient:** Ok doctor. Thank you so much.

**Doctor:** You're welcome. Oh! Before I forget, during transfusion the nurses will monitor you. If you feel there is something wrong like you develop rashes or difficulty in breathing, please let the nurses know right away so we can stop the transfusion and find out what is wrong. Clear?

**Patient:** I understand doctor. Again, thank you.

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## **TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE:**

1. What are the different blood types? Explain the blood group compatibility briefly.
2. Some patients refuse to have blood transfusion because of certain religious beliefs. How will you deal with that patient considering the importance of blood transfusion?