

Dr Shashank Ojha-Biosketch



Dr Shashank Ojha is Assistant Professor and Officer In charge, Department of Transfusion Medicine, ACTREC, TMC. ACTREC (Advanced Centre for Treatment, Research & Education in Cancer) is an integral part of the Tata Memorial Centre ,which is one of the largest and most renowned cancer centre in our country. Patients suffering from all types of cancers including blood cancer are treated here. The centre has a state-of- the-art facility for Bone Marrow Transplantation and have been treating patients of blood cancer with this modality of treatment for many years. After joining ACTREC two and half years back he felt that unlike other hospital based blood bank there is high demand for specialized blood product like Single Donor Platelets especially for patients undergoing bone marrow transplant. This single donor platelet requires a dedicated donor who has to go through a procedure called plateletpheresis. Under his guidance a separate platelet donation awareness program was started in 2010 and till now 10 such programs has been organized in and around Mumbai and Navi Mumbai. In each such program blood bank doctors educate and sensitize public regarding importance of platelet donations, the eligibility requirements of a platelet donor, instructions regarding platelet donation procedure, any risks associated with the procedure and post donation care. After every such program platelet screening camp is organized where donors are registered after thorough screening. All registered donors are subsequently called to blood bank as per the patients requirement. Due to these programs blood bank has been able to create separate voluntary platelet donor database. Currently voluntary platelet donors contribute approximately 50% of total platelet donation. His aim is to make platelet donation 100% voluntary .For this he wants to extend the awareness program to other parts of Maharashtra and surrounding states.