

# ASH: longer red blood cell unit storage noninferior

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(HealthDay)—For children with lactic acidosis due to severe anemia, transfusion with longer-storage red blood cell (RBC) units is noninferior to shorter-storage RBC units, according to a study published online Dec. 5 in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. The research was published to coincide with the annual meeting of the American Society of Hematology, held from Dec. 5 to 8 in Orlando, Fla.

Aggrey Dhabangi, M.D., from Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, and colleagues conducted a randomized noninferiority trial in 290 children, most with malaria or [sickle cell disease](#), who presented with a hemoglobin level of 5 g/dL or lower and a lactate level of 5 mmol/L or higher. Patients were randomized to receive RBC units stored for 25 to 35 days (median: 32 days; 145 patients) versus one to 10 days (median: eight days; 145 patients).

The researchers found that the proportion achieving the primary end point of a lactate level of 3 mmol/L or lower at eight hours was 0.61 in the longer-storage group versus 0.58 in the shorter-storage group (between-group difference, 0.03; P

"These findings have relevance regarding the efficacy of stored RBC transfusion for [patients](#) with critical tissue hypoxia and [lactic acidosis](#) due to anemia," the authors write.

One author disclosed financial ties to the Haemonetics Corporation; Nonin Corporation supplied the equipment used for noninvasive cerebral oxygen measurements.

**More information:** [Abstract](#)

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