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Statistical Challenges Arising in Transfusion Research

There are many important scientific questions in transfusion medicine that remain to be addressed. There is currently considerable interest in i) exploring the relation between the duration blood has been in storage prior to transfusion and adverse health outcomes in recipients, ii) the effect of transfusing blood to patients with a different blood type, and iii) the effect of transfusing gender mismatched blood (i.e. blood from female donors to male recipients). The statistical challenges and approaches to analysing data from a large registry of transfused patients are discussed with a view to exploring these issues.