SARS-CoV-2 RNAemia infrequent in blood donors

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Nucleic acid testing of donor plasma minipools (MPs) indicates that severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) RNAemia is infrequent, according to a study published online May 27 in *Transfusion*.

Sonia Bakkour, Ph.D., from the Vitalant Research Institute in San Francisco, and colleagues tested blood donations collected from March 7 to Sept. 25, 2020, for SARS-CoV-2 RNA (vRNA) in donor plasma MPs of six or 16 donations. To estimate viral load, reactive MPs were tested by transcription-mediated amplification after serial dilution.

Overall, 17,995 MPs corresponding to about 258,000 donations were tested for vRNA. The researchers identified three confirmed reactive MP16s, for an estimated prevalence of 1.16/100,000 vRNA reactive donations. The vRNA-reactive samples were not reactive for antibody; within each MP, the estimated viral loads of the (presumed single) positive donations ranged from