HAS ESCAPED FROM PARKWOOD SCRUBBS HIGH SECURITY PRISON: GRINDALL IS SERVING 25 YEARS FOR ARMED ROBBERY, VIOLENT ASSAULT & INDECENT EXPOSURE. MELVIN GRINDALL, A FORMER JEHovah'S WITNESS & DOUBLE GLAZING SALESMAN, IS HIGHLY DANGEROUS & THE PUBLIC ARE WarnED, UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES, TO APPROACH HIM.... HE WILL APPROACH YOU!
Informed Refusal and the Jehovah’s Witness Patient

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Agenda

- Case
- Tenets of Jehovah’s Witness Faith
- Ethical Principles
- Legal Precedents
- Medical Principles
Case

- 41 yo male with Hep C Cirrhosis
- Hepatopulmonary Syndrome
- Presents for Evaluation for TP
- One of Jehovah’s Witnesses
- “Will not take blood”
Is he a candidate for liver TP?
• What issues need to be considered?
• What are your obligations?
  • To the patient
  • To yourself
  • To others
• Is this different from a CABG or a liver resection?
Jehovah’s Witnesses

- Formed as study group in 1869 by C. T. Russell in Allegheny, PA
- Detected fundamental errors in Christian doctrine
- Nature of the deity and immortality of the soul
- Believe in literal interpretation of bible
- Except where symbolism is obvious
- Severely discourages open discourse
Beliefs

- God’s name is Jehovah
- Members must be approved
- Allegiance to God’s kingdom only
- Don’t salute flags
- Don’t join service organizations
- No military
- Don’t vote
Beliefs Continued

- a governing body located in Brooklyn, New York (the global headquarters of Jehovah’s Witnesses), has ultimate authority over all issues of doctrine.
- Strongly discourage discourse
Timeline

- 1879 - First issue of Watchtower
- 1901 - Discovery of ABO groups
- 1914 - First blood bank Tx
- 1931 - Jehovah’s Witnesses
- 1945 - Ban on transfusions
- 1961 – Became disfellowshipping offense
- 2000 – Became disassociating offense
- 2013 – 7.9 million members
  - 1.2 million in the US
Based on 3 Scriptures

- Genesis 9:3-4

- Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things. But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat
- ... I will set my face against the soul that eateth any manner of blood, and will cut him off from among his people. ...no soul of you shall eat blood, neither shall any stranger that sojourneth among you eat blood. ...Ye shall eat the blood of no manner of flesh; for the life of all flesh is the blood thereof; whosoever eateth it shall be cut off.
...that ye abstain from things sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication; from which if ye keep yourselves, it shall be well with you. Fare ye well.
...when sugar feedings are given in the vein it is called intravenous feeding. ...the transfusion is feeding the patient...(the patient) is eating through his veins
Rules Have Evolved

- Dialysis
- Cardiopulmonary bypass
- Fractionated blood products
- Blood harvesting
- Many of these left up to the Christian’s discretion
Disfellowshipping/disassociating

- Involves Enforced Shunning
- Claims to be Spiritual only
- Not clear what this means
- Have Been Accused of HIPPA violations
- They deny this
Ethical Principles

- Autonomy
- Beneficence
- Non-maleficence
- Social Justice
Autonomy - Informed consent

- To give IC you must be able to refuse
- Adults are allowed to make bad decisions
- We don’t have to agree
- We are not required to give inappropriate care
Elements of Informed Consent

- Appropriate decision-making capacity
- Must understand
  - Nature of the procedure
  - Risk/Benefits/Alternatives
  - Probable Outcome of acceptance/refusal
- Must be free of coercion
Freedom From Coercion

- From other JW’s
- From Physicians
- Important to get patient alone
Legal

- Late 1940’s – Forced to Pledge Allegiance by Supreme Court
- Reversed 3 years later
- Have Continued to Litigate
1964 - Georgetown College

Judge ruled that:

- Patient’s religion merely prevented consenting to a transfusion not receiving one. He ordered a transfusion
- Also a pregnant JW was forced to have transfusion
Courts have sided with JW’s even when children are indirectly involved

Minor’s are a different story
Not Just a Matter of Autonomy

- Make sure we are doing good for the patient - Beneficence
- Not doing harm – Non-Maleficence
Common Misconceptions

- Even if they don’t consent it’s a sin
- Not True
- Though they may feel tainted
Once blood accepted cannot be forgiven

- Also not true
- Can repent
- Can be shown compassion
- May still feel tainted
Pertinent Issues

- Is the patient really a JW
- Limited Resource
- Competence of the TP Team
- What Will the Patient Accept
- What are the HC Givers Responsibility
- Specific Medical Issues
- Explaining All the Risks
  - Blood Cells in the Liver
General Guidelines

- No Traditional JW will take:
  - Whole Blood, PRBC’s
  - Plasma
  - Platelet’s
  - White Cells
Alternative Viewpoint

- Associated Jehovah’s Witnesses for Reform on Blood
- Web site and email address are gone
Optional

- Fractionated Blood Products
  - Individual factors
  - Cryoprecipitate
  - Cryo poor plasma
- Albumin
- Solid Organ Transplants
- Bone Marrow Transplants
Continuous Circuit Rule

- Applies when blood removed from body and reinfused
- CPB
- Dialysis
- Cell Saver
- Acute Normovolemic Hemodilution
- Not Banked autologous blood
What ifs

- Emergency in unconscious patient
  - Does he carry a card
  - Are you sure he/she is a JW
  - Err on side of life
- Pt is temporarily incapacitated
  - Can surrogate change the plan?
  - Should you try to get plan changed?
Health Care Proxy
(New York Public Health Law §§ 2980-2994)

1. I, ________________ (print or type full name), fill out this document to set forth my treatment instructions and to appoint a health-care agent in case of my incapacity.

2. I am one of Jehovah’s Witnesses, and I direct that NO TRANSFUSIONS of whole blood, red cells, white cells, platelets, or plasma be given me under any circumstances, even if health-care providers believe that such are necessary to preserve my life. I refuse to predonate and store my blood for later infusion.

3. Regarding minor fractions of blood: [initial those that apply]
   (a) _____ I REFUSE ALL  (b) _____ I REFUSE ALL EXCEPT: ____________________________

   (c) _____ I may be willing to accept some minor blood fractions, but the details will have to be discussed with me if I am conscious or with my health-care agent in case of my incapacity.

4. Regarding medical procedures involving the use of my own blood, except diagnostic procedures, such as blood samples for testing: [initial those that apply]
   (a) _____ I REFUSE ALL  (b) _____ I REFUSE ALL EXCEPT: ____________________________

   (c) _____ I may be willing to accept certain medical procedures involving my blood, but the details will have to be discussed with me if I am conscious or with my health-care agent in case of my incapacity.

5. Regarding end-of-life matters: [initial one of the two choices]
   (a) _____ I do not want my life to be prolonged if, to a reasonable degree of medical certainty, my situation is hopeless.

   (b) _____ I want my life to be prolonged as long as possible within the limits of generally accepted medical standards, even if this means that I might be kept alive on machines for years.

6. Regarding other health-care instructions (such as current medications, allergies, and medical problems):
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________

7. I give no one (including my agent) any authority to disregard or override my instructions set forth herein. Family members, relatives, or friends may disagree with me, but any such disagreement does not diminish the strength or substance of my refusal of blood or other instructions.

8. Apart from the matters covered above, I appoint the person named below as my agent to make health-care decisions for me. I give my agent full power and authority to consent to or to refuse treatment
What are your rights?

- Can be a conscientious objector
- Should refer to someone else
  - Maybe even far away
- You may be stuck in an emergency
Final Resolution

- Patient had MELD upgrade
- True MELD was low
- Would accept ANH, Cell Salvage
- Albumin
- Did well
Summary

- 1 million JW’s in the US
- Will not take blood and maybe some blood products
- There are some gray areas
- Good communication is key
- Make sure patient is not coerced
- Do the best procedure given the circumstances
- Consider specialized centers
- Consider adjunctive treatments
- Consider epo
- Iron
- Specialized centers
Bottom Line

- Find out if he is really a JW
- Find out what he will and won’t take
- Document this well
- Other’s may not agree
Resources

- www.jw.org
- HIS@jw.org
- 718-560-4300
- jwest1@comcast.net
- Ethical Issues in the Care of Jehovah’s Witness Patients - Curr Opin Anesthesiol 2014, 27:170–176
### Whole Blood

#### Fractions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Protein Fraction</th>
<th>Percentage of Plasma</th>
<th>Choices You Need to Make</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albumin</td>
<td>Up to 4%</td>
<td>Accept albumin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immunoglobulins</td>
<td>Up to 3%</td>
<td>Accept immunoglobulins or refuse immunoglobulins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clotting Factors</td>
<td>Less than 1%</td>
<td>Accept blood-derived clotting factors or refuse blood-derived clotting factors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hemoglobin</td>
<td>33% of Red Cells</td>
<td>Accept hemoglobin or refuse hemoglobin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hemin</td>
<td>Less than 2% of Red Cells</td>
<td>Accept hemin or refuse hemin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interferons</td>
<td>A tiny fraction of White Cells</td>
<td>Accept blood-derived interferons or refuse blood-derived interferons</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Plasma

- Protein fractions that may be used in some medicines that fight viruses and diseases, such as diphtheria, tetanus, viral hepatitis, and rabies. They may also be used to guard against some medical conditions that threaten the life of a developing baby and to counteract the effects of snake or spider venom.

#### Red Cells

- A protein that transports oxygen throughout the body and carbon dioxide to the lungs. 

#### White Cells

- Proteins that fight certain viral infections and cancers. Most interferons are not derived from blood. Some are made from fractions of human white blood cells.

#### Platelets

- At present, all platelets are obtained from donated blood.
PROCEDURES INVOLVING THE MEDICAL USE OF YOUR OWN BLOOD

*Note: The methods of applying each of these medical procedures vary from physician to physician. You should have your physician explain exactly what is involved in any proposed procedure to ensure that it is in harmony with Bible principles and with your own conscientious decisions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME OF TREATMENT</th>
<th>WHAT IT ACCOMPLISHES</th>
<th>Choices You Need to Make</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CELL SALVAGE</td>
<td>Reduces blood loss. Blood is accessed during surgery from a wound or body cavity. It is washed or filtered and then reinfused in a continuous process, returning to the patient.</td>
<td>I accept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>I might accept*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>I refuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEMODILUTION</td>
<td>Reduces blood loss. During surgery, blood is diverted to bags and replaced with a nonblood volume expander. Thus the blood remaining in the patient during surgery is diluted, containing fewer red blood cells. During or at the end of surgery, the diverted blood is returned to the patient.</td>
<td>I accept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>I might accept*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>I refuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEART-LUNG MACHINE</td>
<td>Maintains circulation. Blood is diverted to an artificial heart-lung machine where it is oxygenated and directed back into the patient.</td>
<td>I accept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>I might accept*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>I refuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIALYSIS</td>
<td>Functions as an organ. In hemodialysis, blood circulates through a machine that filters and cleans it before returning it to the patient.</td>
<td>I accept</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>I might accept*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>I refuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPIDURAL BLOOD PATCH</td>
<td>Stops spinal fluid leakage. A small amount of the patient's own blood is injected into the space surrounding the spinal cord to prevent the leakage of spinal fluid.</td>
<td>I accept</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>I might accept*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>I refuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLASMAPHERESIS</td>
<td>Treats illness. Blood is withdrawn and filtered to remove plasma. A plasma substitute is added, and the blood is returned to the patient. Some physicians may want to use plasma from another person to replace that from the patient's blood. If so, this option would be unacceptable to a Christian.</td>
<td>I accept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>I might accept*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>I refuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LABELING OR TAGGING</td>
<td>Diagnoses or treats illness. Some blood is withdrawn, mixed with medicine and returned to the patient. The length of time the blood is outside the body may vary.</td>
<td>I accept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>I might accept*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>I refuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLATELET GEL: AUTOLOGOUS</td>
<td>Seals wounds, reduces bleeding. Some blood is withdrawn and concentrated into a solution rich in platelets and white cells. This solution is applied to surgical sites or wounds. Note: In some formulations, a clotting factor taken from cow's blood is used.</td>
<td>I accept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(MEANING &quot;MADE FROM YOUR OWN BLOOD&quot;)</td>
<td></td>
<td>I might accept*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>I refuse</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>