

Long term morbidity after phlebotomy of blood donors

The Danish Register of Complications Related to Blood Donation had for the years 2000-2007 (2,942,734 donations) information on 137 cases or 5 per 100,000 donations, which fulfilled the standard criteria for Long Time Morbidity (LTM, symptoms for more than one year). Detailed information on the donation and donor clinical symptoms will be presented.

A total of 69 % of the LTM cases had peripheral neuropathic pain as the initial symptoms and 23 % experienced a complicated insertion of the needle.

As cases with peripheral neuropathic pain with other etiology have been treated with good result using the neural tissue mobilization technique, based on new insight in the function of neural tissue this technique should be evaluated in blood donors

Conclusion

Peripheral neurologic pain is the most common symptom in donors with a severe LTM complication. Prevention can be increased by education, knowledge and accept of an SOP on gentle venepuncture technique.

Treatment with a new neural tissue mobilization physiotherapeutic technique should be evaluated.