STANDARD OPERATING
IMUNOHAEMATOLOGICAL
PROCEDURES USED FOR
INVESTIGATIONS OF CASES WITH
AUTOIMMUNE HAEMOLYTIC ANEMIA
AND FOR SELECTION OF
TRANSFUSIONAL BLOOD

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Autoimune Haemolytic Anaemia (AHA) is a disease produced by a reduced red cell lifespan due to the production of antibodies which react with antigens on the individual's own red cells. Red cells autoantibodies are of IgG, IgM, IgA classes and so AHA may be classified into "warm", "cold" or "mixed" types reflecting their termal optima. Also, AHA may occur as primary diseases or some drugs. Haemolysis may be extravascular or spectacular intravascular, producing a severe acute anaemia which threatened patient's life. In these situations it is imperative blood transfusion with selected suitable red cells.

Aim: Introducing immunohaematological Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) carried out on AHA cases for the urgent diagnosys and transfusion.

Methods: Performing, without delay, on adequate blood samples obtained from the patients, on patient's red cells and serum, and with blood donors cell, the immunoserological test based on SOP.

Cases: 532 cases suspected for AHA were investigated in accordance with SOP, 262 of them had AHA and received adequate blood for transfusion.

Conclusions: The diagnosis of AHA may be easy or extremely difficult, in some occasions, and therefor it is an obligation to apply immunohaematological SOP for the quickly diagnosys and appropriate transfusion.