WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL RISKS AND SIDE EFFECTS?

Plasma exchange is known to be safe and well-tolerated, with the majority of reactions being mild. Here are some of the side effects that may occur during your procedure:

- Pain at the needle site
- Feeling tired or cold
- Low blood pressure
- Dizziness
- Lightheadedness
- Nausea or vomiting
- Tingling in the fingers and/or around the mouth

These do not occur in every patient. Tell your healthcare provider immediately if you experience any of these symptoms. To make you more comfortable, the nurse may give you calcium tablets or may slow down or temporarily stop the procedure for a short time. You may also be given a blanket to keep your body warm and comfortable.

Before receiving treatment, talk with your doctor to understand your treatment options and any related risks.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR YOUR PROCEDURE

1. Some drugs may be affected by plasma exchange; ask your doctor about any impact to drugs you are taking.
2. It is important to drink water and consume foods high in calcium, such as cheese or milk. This can help your procedure go smoothly.
3. A typical plasma exchange takes 1 to 3 hours, so visit the restroom beforehand.
4. Plan how you will pass the time. Many patients enjoy watching a video on a tablet or listening to music or an audiobook.
5. You may be allowed to have company during a plasma exchange procedure. Check with your healthcare provider on the policy.
6. Talk to your doctor about how to take care of the veins in your arms used for this procedure, such as avoiding blood draws in advance of the procedure, if possible.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT HAVING BLOOD DRAWN

Plasma exchange requires drawing your blood using a device. Qualified personnel will assess your veins before your procedure to help determine the best way to draw your blood. Drawing your blood can usually be achieved with a needle in one or both arms. Depending on the length of treatment, more permanent options may be used.
WHY DO YOU NEED PLASMA EXCHANGE?
Some medical conditions can cause your body to create harmful antibodies or excess proteins. These substances circulate throughout the body in the plasma and may harm healthy cells or tissues.

WHAT IS PLASMA EXCHANGE?
Plasma exchange is a common treatment that is known to be safe and well-tolerated. It is used to remove a patient’s plasma when it contains potentially harmful substances. Your treatment will be performed on a medical device, such as the Spectra Optia® Apheresis System. During the procedure, the device takes a small amount of your blood and separates your plasma from the other parts of your blood. While your plasma is being removed, the device will replace it with a fluid recommended by your doctor. Simply put, the “old plasma” is removed and replaced with the new fluid.

WHAT IS PLASMA?
Plasma is the liquid part of blood that carries red blood cells and white blood cells through the body. When plasma is separated from the other parts of the blood, it is yellow in color.

YOUR PROCEDURE: WHAT TO EXPECT
A qualified medical professional is responsible for operating Spectra Optia and monitoring you throughout the procedure.

CONNECT
A single-use sterile tubing set is connected to one or both of your arms with a needle. Depending on the length of treatment, more permanent options may be used.

PROCEDURE
A small portion of your blood is removed and mixed with a fluid that prevents the blood from clotting. Very little blood, less than a cup, is in the tubing set at any point during the procedure.

The majority of your plasma is separated and removed from the other parts of your blood.

The remaining parts of your blood are mixed with the new fluid and then returned to you.

FINISH
The tubing set and the removed plasma are properly thrown away.
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