The Clinical Efficacy of Fibrinogen Concentrate in Massive Obstetric Haemorrhage with Hypofibrinogenaemia

Shigetaka Matsunaga1, Yasushi Takai1, Eishin Nakamura1, Sumiko Era1, Yoshihisa Ono1, Koji Yamamoto2, Hiroo Maeda2 & Hiroyuki Seki1

Massive obstetric haemorrhage remains a major cause of maternal death attributable to hypofibrinogenaemia. Transfusion of large volumes of fresh frozen plasma (FFP) is required to normalise fibrinogen levels. We compared the efficacy of FFP (F group) with that of FFP plus fibrinogen concentrate (F + F group) in massive obstetric haemorrhage. In this retrospective study, we compared the medical charts (2004–2016) of 137 patients with <150 mg/dl fibrinogen treated with F + F (n = 47; after August 2009) or F (n = 56; before August 2009). Although fibrinogen concentrate was only administered in severe cases, the FFP/red blood cell concentrate (RCC) ratio was significantly lower in the F + F group than in the F group. A sub-group analysis of cases requiring ≥18 RCC units showed that the F + F group received significantly less FFP than the F group (40.2 ± 19.6 versus 53.4 ± 18.5 units; \( P = 0.047 \)) and showed significantly less pulmonary oedema (24.0% vs 57.1%; \( P < 0.05 \)) in the absence of any significant differences in pre-transfusion coagulation, estimated blood loss, or RCC transfusion volume. Administration of fibrinogen concentrate increased the rate of fibrinogen supplementation five-fold and reduced FFP dosage, the FFP/RCC ratio, and the incidence of pulmonary oedema.

Massive obstetric haemorrhage remains a major cause of maternal mortality worldwide, currently accounting for 27.1% of all maternal deaths1. The pathology, although difficult to categorise clearly, can be subdivided into dilutional coagulopathy (attributable to causes such as genital tract trauma and atonic bleeding) and consumption coagulopathy (attributable to placental abruption or amniotic fluid embolism); both of these pathologies frequently result in disseminated intravascular coagulation, which is associated with extreme hypofibrinogenaemia2,3. We previously reported that the fibrinogen level at the time when the decision to perform blood transfusion was made correlated with the transfusion dosage4 and that fibrinogen level is the most sensitive determinant of the transfusion volume employed to treat massive obstetric haemorrhage5.

Rapid normalisation of fibrinogen levels reduces blood loss6. Currently, coagulation factors are supplemented using fresh frozen plasma (FFP) as the first-line therapy because it is widely available and is indicated for coagulopathy treatments in many countries. However, only a low level of fibrinogen is present in FFP7; we have previously reported that when FFP alone is used for coagulation factor supplementation in massive obstetric haemorrhage, the ratio of FFP to red blood cell concentrate (RCC) (FFP/RCC ratio) must be at least 1.0, regardless of the pathology underlying the haemorrhage6. Therefore, sufficient coagulation factor supplementation requires the transfusion of a large volume of FFP. Coagulation factor supplementation with FFP thus presents a number of problems. First, the use of a large volume of FFP results in a high rate of pulmonary oedema, associated with the increased circulating blood volume6. Second, FFP thawing requires manpower and its administration takes some time, thus slowing coagulation factor replenishment and prolonging coagulopathy; this can result in continued haemorrhage and subsequent transfusions6. Although FFP is the first-line agent used to treat acquired fibrinogen deficiencies in many countries, fibrinogen levels can be restored more rapidly by using fibrinogen concentrate or cryoprecipitate; in Japan, however, these are not covered by health insurance, and the required blood products

1Center for Maternal, Foetal and Neonatal Medicine, Saitama Medical Centre, Saitama Medical University, Kawagoe, Japan. 2Department of Transfusion Medicine and Cell Therapy, Saitama Medical Centre, Saitama Medical University, Kawagoe, Japan. Correspondence and requests for materials should be addressed to S.M. (email: shige_m@saitama-med.ac.jp)
are not widely available. Fibrinogen concentrate can be used "off label" in acquired fibrinogen deficiencies and is also used as the standard treatment in some countries such as Austria, Germany, and Switzerland. Fibrinogen is an essential protein involved in platelet aggregation and blood coagulation. The use of fibrinogen and other coagulation factor concentrates that include high levels of fibrinogen should therefore provide therapeutic benefits by efficiently restoring the levels of key coagulation factors. However, there are few studies comparing the efficacy of these blood products in obstetric patients with that of a relevant control group, and no reports have investigated this in a controlled clinical setting in individuals with hypofibrinogenaemia because these are generally emergency medicine patients. Therefore, in the present study we retrospectively compared the effects of administering a fibrinogen concentrate to patients treated for hypofibrinogenaemia (fibrinogen < 150 mg/dl) attributable to massive obstetric haemorrhage with those observed in patients treated with FFP alone, including reduced complications.

**Results**

Table 1 shows patient demographics for the 103 patients involved in the present study who were treated with FFP and fibrinogen concentrate (F + F group, n = 47) or FFP alone (F group, n = 56). There were no significant differences in patient demographics between these two study groups.

Within the F + F group, we analysed the difference between the post- and pre-administration fibrinogen level (∆fibrinogen) and divided this by the duration of administration to calculate the rate of fibrinogen increase (∆fibrinogen/h) in 32 patients treated with 3 g fibrinogen concentrate and 15 patients who received 6 g fibrinogen concentrate (Table 2). Fibrinogen concentrate administration significantly increased fibrinogen levels (P < 0.0001). Those treated with 6 g of this preparation showed significantly higher ∆fibrinogen and ∆fibrinogen/h values than those treated with 3 g.

We also compared ∆fibrinogen/h between the F + F and F groups (data not shown in table). This analysis found that the mean ∆fibrinogen/h was significantly higher in the F + F group (123.0 ± 112.3) than in the F group (24.8 ± 19.3) (P < 0.0001).

In order to investigate the effects of fibrinogen concentrate, we analysed blood test data at the time of the decision to perform blood transfusion to determine the transfusion volume (Fig. 1, Analysis 1). Table 3 shows no significant differences in pre-transfusion blood fibrinogen levels in the F + F and F groups. The F + F group had a significantly lower prothrombin time activity percentage (PT%) and a significantly higher RCC dosage than that of the F group. Even though fibrinogen concentrate was predominantly administered in severe cases, the FFP/RCC ratio was significantly lower in the F + F group than in the F group. There was no significant difference in FFP dosage in these two groups. Thrombosis was not observed in any of the 47 patients in the F + F group.

In addition, to match the severity of these groups, we performed sub-group analyses of the most severe cases (Fig. 1, Analysis 2). Although no significant differences were observed for pre-transfusion PT%, fibrinogen,
Table 2. Blood fibrinogen levels in patients treated with the indicated doses of fibrinogen concentrate. Δfibrinogen, the difference between post- and pre-administration fibrinogen levels; Δfibrinogen/h, the Δfibrinogen divided by the time required for administration; SD, standard deviation; CI, confidence interval.

| Δfibrinogen (total) | Median | Mean ± SD | 95% CI     | n  |
|---------------------|--------|-----------|------------|----|
| 118                 | 132 ± 60.2 | 114.5–149.9 | 47 |
| Δfibrinogen (3 g)   | 106.5  | 105.2 ± 39.1 | 91.1–119.3 | 32 |
| Δfibrinogen (6 g)   | 214    | 189.8 ± 57.4 | 157.9–221.6 | 15 |
| Δfibrinogen/h (total) | 80.7   | 123.0 ± 112.3 | 90.1–156.0 | 47 |
| Δfibrinogen/h (3 g) | 71.4   | 93.9 ± 96.3 | 59.2–128.7 | 32 |
| Δfibrinogen/h (6 g) | 166    | 185.2 ± 121.8 | 117.7–252.7 | 15 |

Figure 1. Flow chart showing the enrolled patients for this study.

Figure 2. Incidence of pulmonary oedema in the most severe cases, receiving ≥18 red blood cell concentrate units. The severe-F group was treated with fresh frozen plasma and the severe-F + F group was treated with fresh frozen plasma and fibrinogen concentrate.
received not only a lower FFP/RCC dose, but also a significantly lower FFP dose than that of the severe-F group. Indeed, the present sub-group analysis of patients who receivedorrhages, those in the two groups; thus, fibrinogen concentrate yielded a lower FFP/RCC ratio. In patients with equally severe haem-

estimated blood loss, or RCC dosage in these sub-groups requiring ≥18 RCC units, the severe-F + F group received a significantly lower dosage of FFP than that of the severe-F group (Table 3). Pulmonary oedema occurred in significantly fewer patients in the severe-F + F group than in the severe-F group ($P < 0.05$; Fig. 2).

We performed a statistical analysis between placental abruption and uterine atony in their early stages of severity. In patients with early-stage placental abruption requiring 10 units or less RCC, the F + F group required a significantly lower dosage of FFP and FFP/RCC than that of the F group, although RCC and estimated blood loss were not significantly different (Table 4). In contrast, in early-stage uterine atony cases requiring 10 units or less RCC, no significant differences were found between the F + F and F groups, although the number of cases was low (2 and 7 cases, respectively).

### Discussion

Compared to treatment using FFP alone, the combination of FFP and fibrinogen concentrate produced a more rapid increase in fibrinogen levels by roughly five-fold, reduced the FFP/RCC ratio, and allowed the administra-

As we and other researchers have previously reported, lower levels of fibrinogen require higher transfusion volumes of both RCC and FFP$^{2,3}$. Therefore, rapid normalisation of the blood fibrinogen level by administration of fibrinogen concentrate is expected to reduce RCC transfusion volume and blood loss$^{16}$. In the present study, the significantly higher RCC dosage observed in the F + F group (Table 3) may reflect the preferential use of fibrinogen concentrate in patients with more severe haemorrhages, which would be difficult to treat with FFP alone. Nevertheless, the FFP dosage necessary for coagulation factor supplementation was comparable between the two groups; thus, fibrinogen concentrate yielded a lower FFP/RCC ratio. In patients with equally severe haemorrhages, those in the F + F group were expected to show a lower FFP/RCC ratio than those in the F group. Indeed, the present sub-group analysis of patients who received ≥18 RCC units shows that the severe-F + F group received not only a lower FFP/RCC dose, but also a significantly lower FFP dose than that of the severe-F group.

Although a few case series have been reported previously$^{17}$, there are no controlled studies of the efficacy and complications of fibrinogen concentrate usage in patients with massive obstetric haemorrhage and hypofibrino-

|        | F + F (n = 8) | F (n = 8) | P-value |
|--------|--------------|----------|---------|
| Hb (g/dl) | 7.08 ± 2.14 | 6.80 ± 1.92 | 0.05   |
| PT%    | 44.2 ± 19.1 | 52.8 ± 17.5 | 0.0016 |
| Fibrinogen (mg/dl) | 80.8 ± 21.8 | 83.6 ± 36.6 | 0.05   |
| Estimated blood loss (ml) | 4004 ± 2392 | 3284 ± 1862 | 0.05   |
| RCC (unit) | 20.5 ± 14.1 | 13.0 ± 8.07 | <0.0013 |
| FFP (unit) | 31.7 ± 18.8 | 30.0 ± 18.6 | 0.05   |
| FFP/RCC | 1.72 ± 0.76 | 2.48 ± 1.15 | 0.0002 |

Table 3. Comparison of fibrinogen levels and other haemostatic parameters before treatment, and blood product usage in the groups treated with fresh frozen plasma and fibrinogen concentrate (F + F) or fresh frozen plasma alone (F). Sub-groups of the most severe patients were also compared; these required ≥18 red blood cell concentrate units. Hb, haemoglobin concentration; PT%, prothrombin time activity percentage; RCC, red cell concentrate; FFP, fresh frozen plasma.

|        | Abruptio F + F (n = 8) | Abruptio F (n = 18) | P-value |
|--------|------------------------|---------------------|---------|
| Hb (g/dl) | 7.27 ± 1.39 | 7.00 ± 1.93 | 0.05   |
| PT%    | 58.5 ± 16.6 | 59.5 ± 19.8 | 0.05   |
| Fibrinogen (mg/dl) | 83.6 ± 20.9 | 82.5 ± 33.0 | 0.05   |
| Estimated blood loss (ml) | 2504.6 ± 1306 | 2988.1 ± 1365 | 0.05   |
| RCC (unit) | 7.00 ± 1.85 | 6.88 ± 2.19 | 0.05   |
| FFP (unit) | 9.75 ± 2.91 | 19.0 ± 9.40 | 0.0122 |
| FFP/RCC | 1.47 ± 0.57 | 2.96 ± 1.60 | 0.0187 |

Table 4. Comparison of fibrinogen levels and other haemostatic parameters before treatment, and blood product usage in the groups of early-stage placental abruption requiring ≤10 units of red blood cell concentrate. Hb, haemoglobin concentration; PT%, prothrombin time activity percentage; RCC, red cell concentrate; FFP, fresh frozen plasma; F + F, fresh frozen plasma and fibrinogen concentrate; F, fresh frozen plasma alone.
Fibrinogen concentrate has a low risk of viral infection. Further, various antigens and antibodies that are present in cryoprecipitate have been removed. Fibrinogen concentrate can also be stored at room temperature. This means that no thawing is required, allowing for rapid restoration of the blood fibrinogen level to the target range to achieve haemostasis.

As 600 ml FFP contains 1 g fibrinogen, administration of 2 FFP units to hypofibrinogenemic patients increases their blood fibrinogen level by 30–50 mg/dl. Thus, approximately 1,500 ml FFP is required to increase the fibrinogen level by 100 mg/dl. The use of FFP alone in patients with a massive obstetric haemorrhage requires an FFP volume large enough to achieve an FFP/RCC ratio >1.0 when converted to whole-blood ratio. In contrast, administration of 1 g fibrinogen concentrate in 50 ml increases the blood fibrinogen level by 30 mg/dl and 3–4 g (150–200 ml) can therefore increase the fibrinogen level by 100 mg/dl. Thus, the much smaller volume of fibrinogen concentrate required to correct coagulation factor levels reduces the incidence of pulmonary oedema, as shown in the present study. As mentioned above and in previous reports, we chose 3 g as the fibrinogen concentrate dose.

Patients with extremely severe haemorrhages of >4000 ml require a large volume of fibrinogen supplementation, as well as treatment for the resultant dilutional coagulopathy and depletion of coagulation factors other than fibrinogen. Prior to beginning rapid coagulation factor supplementation using fibrinogen concentrate, infusion and RCC transfusion may further exacerbate dilutional coagulopathy, thus necessitating supplementation of these other coagulation factors. While the lowest fibrinogen level commensurate with haemostasis is 40–50% of the normal range (100 mg/dl), the minimum level of most other coagulation factors is 20–25% of their normal range. This means that some massive haemorrhages can be treated by fibrinogen supplementation, while others require both fibrinogen and other coagulation factors. The severe-F + F group consisted of patients who required >18 RCC units and was inferred to include many patients with severe dilutional coagulopathy, where coagulation factors besides fibrinogen were below the minimum levels required for haemostasis; the need for administration of coagulation factors besides fibrinogen was therefore high. Nevertheless, we found that FFP dosage was in fact greatly reduced in the severe-F + F group (Table 3).

In extremely severe haemorrhages of >4000 ml, continuous administration of fibrinogen concentrate (without dosage limits) and FFP may be warranted to maintain a fibrinogen level of ≥150 mg/dl, thus preventing further blood loss and reducing the transfusion volume. Future studies should investigate the use of cryoprecipitate and other blood products containing large amounts of coagulation factors other than fibrinogen; these have the potential to produce effective reduction of blood loss in dilutional coagulopathy and to reduce the dose of RCC.

In the early stages of placental abruption, a representative cause of consumption coagulopathy, the circulating blood volume is maintained; however, extrinsic coagulation factors are reduced, attributable to the influx of tissue thromboplastin into the maternal blood, while other coagulation factors are relatively preserved. Consequently, rapid fibrinogen supplementation immediately improves coagulopathy and achieves haemostasis. Therefore, as shown in Table 4, the use of fibrinogen concentrate would be very beneficial in the early stages of consumption coagulopathy caused by placental abruption because it would minimise blood loss and transfusion volume.

The present study was limited by being a retrospective and relatively small epidemiological study. However, large-scale randomised controlled trials in this area are difficult because fibrinogen concentrate is not indicated for the treatment of massive obstetric haemorrhage in many countries, and it would be unethical to withhold this treatment from the control group in countries where it is normally available. The efficacy of fibrinogen concentrate is demonstrated in very severe cases requiring a large RCC transfusion, as well as in early-stage placental abruption cases requiring a small RCC transfusion. An additional limitation is the absence of a group treated with fibrinogen concentrate alone. Administration of fibrinogen concentrate and fluids might be appropriate for the treatment of coagulopathy under certain circumstances. Because this study was conducted over a long period, learning bias might also affect the results. Although our study is retrospective, we would like to add more cases to it in the future to improve the precision of these analyses.

**Materials and Methods**

This study was conducted in accordance with the approval of the Saitama Medical Center/Saitama Medical University Institutional Review Board. The requirement for informed consent was waived because this study was a retrospective medical chart review. We announced our study plan and advertised for opposition letters from patients on our Center’s website during the study period. All methods were performed in accordance with Ethical Guidelines for Medical and Health Research Involving Human Subjects issued by Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan (http://www.lifescience.mext.go.jp/files/pdf/n1500_01.pdf).

We identified 137 patients with severe coagulopathy attributable to massive obstetric haemorrhage between 2004 and 2016 who presented with a fibrinogen level <150 mg/dl and underwent transfusion therapy with FFP or FFP plus fibrinogen concentrate.

Fibrinogen levels were measured using a STA-R Evolution analyser (Roche Diagnostics K.K., Tokyo, Japan). Clinical decisions to transfuse were based on the “Our transfusion management principle” document, which was consistent from 2004 onwards.

In Japan, 2 units of RCC/FFP are made from 400 ml whole blood.
The ultimate goal of RCC transfusion, based on a consideration of the oxygen-carrying capacity, was 7 g/dl haemoglobin, while the final goals for FFP transfusion were a PT% of 60% and a fibrinogen level of 150 mg/dl. This was defined as the point at which haemostasis was achieved. We performed repeated haemoglobin tests after administration of every 2–6 units of RCC at approximately the same time as the coagulation function test. RCC was administered until the final goals were reached and the administration of 2 RCC units increased haemoglobin levels by 1.6–1.7 g/dl. We performed repeated coagulation function tests after administration of every 6–8 units of FFP. FFP was administered until the aforementioned final goals were reached, and administration of 2 FFP units to hypofibrinogenemic patients increased their blood fibrinogen levels by 30–50 mg/dl. We also noted RCC and FFP during transfusion, and maintained a FFP/RCC ratio above 1.0 for every coagulation function test.

Fibrinogen concentrate was administered in addition to FFP as an aggressive coagulation factor supplementation. The initial dose employed was 3 g. The fibrinogen level was determined again 15 min after administration; if it remained below 150 mg/dl, a further 3 g was administered. The fibrinogen level was then tested again, and a maximum of 6 g fibrinogen concentrate was administered.

Uterotonics such as oxytocin and methylergometrine were routinely administered to patients with uterine atony.

Pulmonary oedema, associated with an increase in circulating blood volume, was defined as an arterial oxygen saturation as measured by pulse oximetry (SpO2) < 95% with reduced chest X-ray permeability, requiring oxygenation and diuretic administration. Transfusion-related acute lung injury, a serious blood transfusion reaction characterised by dyspnoea attributable to non-cardiogenic sudden pulmonary oedema within several hours of transfusion, was not observed in individuals with pulmonary oedema.

As shown in Fig. 1, we divided patients into two groups treated before or after the introduction of fibrinogen concentrate in August 2009. One group of patients was treated with F + F after August 2009 (n = 47), while those who received FFP transfusions prior to August 2009 were defined as the F group (n = 56). In general, fibrinogen concentrate is only administered in severe cases; therefore, the group of patients treated with FFP alone from August 2009 onwards (F’ group; n = 34) were mild cases in comparison to the F + F group; these patients were excluded from further analyses (Analysis 1). To match the severity of conditions between the study groups, we also conducted a sub-group analysis of the most severe cases, defined as those requiring ≥ 18 RCC units (Analysis 2).

Statistical analyses were performed using JMP v10.0 (SAS Institute, Cary, NC, USA). The study groups were compared using the Kruskal-Wallis test and chi-square test, with P < 0.05 considered to indicate a statistically significant difference.

References
1. Say, L. et al. Global causes of maternal death: a WHO systematic analysis. Lancet Glob. Health. 2, e232–333 (2014).
2. Charbit, B. et al. The decrease of fibrinogen is an early predictor of the severity of postpartum hemorrhage. J. Thromb. Haemost. 5, 266–273 (2007).
3. McIntosh, C. & James, A. H. Obstetric hemorrhage. J Thromb Haemost. 9, 1441–1451 (2011).
4. Matsunaga, S. et al. A retrospective analysis of transfusion management for obstetric hemorrhage in a Japanese obstetric center. ISRN. Obstet. Gynecol. 2012, 854064 (2012).
5. Era, S., Matsunaga, S., Matsumura, H., Murayama, Y., Takai, Y. & Seki, H. Usefulness of shock indicators for determining the need for blood transfusion after massive obstetric hemorrhage. J Obstet Gynaecol Res. 41, 39–43 (2015).
6. de Lloyd, L. et al. Standard haemostatic tests following major obstetric haemorrhage. Int. J. Obstet. Anesth. 20, 135–141 (2011).
7. Theusinger, O. M. et al. Relative concentrations of haemostatic factors and cytokines in solvent/detergent-treated and fresh-frozen plasma. Br. J. Anaesth. 106, 505–511 (2011).
8. Makino, S. et al. National survey of fibrinogen concentrate usage for post-partum hemorrhage in Japan: investigated by the Perinatology Committee, Japan Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology. J. Obstet. Gynaecol. Res. 41, 1155–1160 (2015).
9. Danes, A. F., Cuenca, L. G., Bueno, S. R., Mendarte Barrenechea, L. & Ronsano, J. B. Efficacy and tolerability of human fibrinogen concentrate administration to patients with acquired fibrinogen deficiency and active or in high-risk severe bleeding. Vox. Sang 94, 221–226 (2008).
10. Fenger-Eriksen, C., Lindberg-Larsen, M., Christensen, A. Q., Ingerslev, J. & Sorensen, B. Fibrinogen concentrate substitution therapy for obstetric hemorrhage complicated by coagulopathy. J Obstet Gynaecol Res. 34, 69–76 (2008).
11. Collop, N. D. et al. National audit of the use of fibrinogen concentrate to correct hypofibrinogenemia. Transfus. Med. 22, 350–355 (2012).
12. Thorarinssottir, H. R. et al. Effects of fibrinogen concentrate administration during severe hemorrhage. Acta Anaesthesiol. Scand. 54, 1077–1082 (2010).
13. Weinikove, R. & Rangarajan, S. Fibrinogen concentrate for acquired hypofibrinogenemic states. Transfus. Med. 18, 151–157 (2008).
14. Kikuchi, M. et al. Fibrinogen concentrate substitution therapy for obstetric hemorrhage complicated by coagulopathy. J. Obstet. Gynaecol. Res. 39, 770–776 (2013).
15. Wikkelso, A. J. et al. Pre-empptive treatment with fibrinogen concentrate for postpartum haemorrhage: randomized controlled trial. Br. J. Anaesth. 114, 623–633 (2015).
16. Santoso, J. T., Saunders, B. A. & Grosshart, K. Massive blood loss and transfusion in obstetrics and gynecology. Obstet. Gynecol. Surv. 60, 827–837 (2005).
17. Bell, S. E., Raymond, R., Collins, P. W. & Collins, R. E. The use of fibrinogen concentrate to correct hypofibrinogenemia rapidly during obstetric haemorrhage. Int. J. Obstet. Anesth. 19, 218–223 (2010).
18. Ahmed, S. et al. The efficacy of fibrinogen concentrate compared with cryoprecipitate in major obstetric haemorrhage—an observational study. Transfus. Med. 22, 344–349 (2012).
19. Wikkelso, A. et al. Fibrinogen concentrate in bleeding patients. Cochrane Database Syst. Rev. 8, CD008864 (2013).
20. Brenner, B. Haemostatic changes in pregnancy. Br. J. Anaesth. 74, 409–414 (2000).
21. Wang, L. et al. Pre-delivery fibrinogen predicts adverse maternal or neonatal outcomes in patients with placental abruption. J. Obstet. Gynaecol. Res. 42, 796–802 (2016).
22. Pacheco, L. D., Saade, G. R., Costantini, M. M., Clark, S. L. & Hankins, G. D. An update on the use of massive transfusion protocols in obstetrics. Am. J. Obstet. Gynecol. 214, 340–346 (2011).
23. Stinger, H. K. et al. The ratio of fibrinogen to red cells transfused affects survival in casualties receiving massive transfusions at an army combat support hospital. J. Trauma. 64 (2 Suppl), S79–85 discussion S85 (2008).
24. Rossaint, R. et al. Management of bleeding following major trauma: an updated European guideline. Crit. Care. 14, R52 (2010).
25. Rossaint, R. et al. The European guideline on management of major bleeding and coagulopathy following trauma: fourth edition. Crit. Care. 20, 100 (2016).
26. Hiippala, S. T., Myllyla, G. J. & Vahtera, E. M. Hemostatic factors and replacement of major blood loss with plasma-poor red cell concentrates. Anesth. Analg. 81, 360–365 (1995).
27. Honda, M. et al. Intrapartum anti-disseminated intravascular coagulation therapy leading to successful vaginal delivery following intrauterine fetal death caused by placental abruption: a case report. J. Med. Case Rep. 8, 461 (2014).
28. Murphy, M. F. et al. Guidelines for the clinical use of red cell transfusions. Br. J. Haematol. 113, 24–31 (2001).
29. Ahonen, J., Stefanovic, V. & Lassila, R. Management of post-partum haemorrhage. Acta Anaesthesiol. Scand. 54, 1164–1178 (2010).
30. Mitra, B., Fitzgerald, M. & Chan, J. The utility of a shock index ≥ 1 as an indication for pre-hospital oxygen carrier administration in major trauma. Injury. 45, 61–65 (2014).
31. Popovsky, M. A. & Moore, S. B. Diagnostic and pathogenetic considerations in transfusion-related acute lung injury. Transfusion. 25, 573–577 (1985).

Acknowledgements
We did not receive any funding for this study. We would like to thank Masahiro Anan from the Department of Transfusion Medicine and Cell Therapy, Saitama Medical Center, Saitama Medical University, who contributed to the data collection relating to blood component usage.

Author Contributions
S.M. contributed to the study concept and design and was involved in drafting and revising the manuscript. Y.T. contributed to revising the manuscript. E.N. contributed to data collection. S.E. and Y.O. contributed to the management of enrolled patient treatment. K.Y., H.M., and H.S. contributed to the study concept and design. All authors reviewed the manuscript.

Additional Information
Competing Interests: The authors declare no competing financial interests.

How to cite this article: Matsunaga, S. et al. The Clinical Efficacy of Fibrinogen Concentrate in Massive Obstetric Haemorrhage with Hypofibrinogenemia. Sci. Rep. 7, 46749; doi: 10.1038/srep46749 (2017).

Publisher's note: Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License. The images or other third party material in this article are included in the article’s Creative Commons license, unless indicated otherwise in the credit line; if the material is not included under the Creative Commons license, users will need to obtain permission from the license holder to reproduce the material. To view a copy of this license, visit http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/

© The Author(s) 2017