Plasma is the straw-colored liquid portion of blood. It contains hundreds of proteins, such as antibodies to fight diseases and clotting factors to control bleeding. If a person has insufficient levels of any one plasma protein, his or her body cannot carry out certain vital functions, causing a variety of chronic and life-threatening medical conditions.

Plasma protein therapies are unique biologic medicines that treat people with plasma protein deficiencies and dysfunctions. These disorders occur in a very small patient population and belong to a group of rare diseases. In Europe, a disease is considered rare if it affects 1 individual in 2,000.1

**European patients in need of Plasma Protein Therapies (estimates)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CAUSES &amp; SYMPTOMS</th>
<th>Estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PRIMARY IMMUNODEFICIENCY DISEASES (PID)</strong></td>
<td>375,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Caused by missing or malfunctioning immunoglobulins (antibodies)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Antibodies control the immune system and prevent illness</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Patients are chronically ill from severe, persistent, recurrent infections</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHRONIC INFLAMMATORY DEMYELINATING POLYNEUROPATHY (CIDP)</strong></td>
<td>33,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Cause not certain; immune system attacks nerve coating</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Messages from the brain aren’t delivered to the body if nerve coating is damaged</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Patients experience progressive weakness, loss of limb function, and disability</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HAEMOPHILIA</strong></td>
<td>150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Caused by missing or malfunctioning clotting factor protein</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Clotting factors control bleeding</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Patients cannot regulate bleeding (joint damage is common)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Can be fatal if bleeding occurs in brain or vital organs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HEREDITARY ANGIO-OEDEMA</strong></td>
<td>15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Caused by missing or malfunctioning C1 esterase inhibitor protein (C1-INH)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- C1-INH helps control inflammation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Patients have oedema (severe swelling)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Can be fatal if airway obstructed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ALPHA-1 ANTITRYSIN DEFICIENCY</strong></td>
<td>75,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Caused by missing or malfunctioning Alpha-1 Proteinase Inhibitor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Alpha-1 Proteinase Inhibitor protects the lungs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Patients have chronic emphysema and liver damage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Based on European population of 750,000,000.
Made From Plasma

Donated Plasma Is A Finite Starting Material

The starting material for plasma protein therapies is not an infinite resource. Rather than using synthetic or chemical ingredients, plasma protein therapies are made using human plasma. Plasma cannot be made synthetically in a laboratory. Plasma and its lifesaving proteins can only be obtained from donors who so generously give their time to donate.

Authorization

EMA certifies establishments which collect plasma for manufacturing through the Plasma Master File (PMF) certifications, and thus qualifies its collection processes as to ensure they are carried out in line with the European regulations. In addition, each of these establishments is under separate supervision of the local and national regulatory authorities. In the European Union, all plasma-derived medicines are either centrally authorized by the European Medicines Agency (EMA), or by Member States’ National Regulatory Authorities before they can be marketed.

Plasma Collection

Plasma is collected from healthy, mostly compensated donors through a process called plasmapheresis. Plasmapheresis removes a donor’s plasma and returns the remaining cell components.

Plasma is collected at more than 100 plasma donation centers in the European Union. After collection, the plasma donation is frozen and shipped to a state-of-the-art facility for manufacture into lifesaving plasma protein therapies.
Plasma protein therapies require constant vigilance for safe products. There are three types of safeguard measures used in plasma donation and manufacturing to ensure safe plasma protein therapies:

1. **Selection of Starting Material: Donor Screening**
   - **Voluntary industry standards often exceed regulatory requirements.**
   - Qualified donor: 18 years or older, 50 kg or more, with 2 medical screenings and 2 negative tests for specific viruses.

2. **Testing for Pathogens**
   - Current manufacturing protocols are extremely effective against pathogens.
   - The industry has a record of safety from pathogens for more than 20 years.

3. **Elimination of Pathogens**
   - Evolving Protocols
     - Unlike traditional pharmaceuticals or other biologics, plasma protein therapies’ safety protocols are constantly evolving due to new and emerging pathogens.
     - Companies must continuously perform tests to demonstrate that their viral inactivation and removal steps work on new pathogens. Most recently, companies invested significant time and resources into researching the Zika virus to ensure it does not threaten the safety of plasma protein therapies.
Plasma Protein Therapies: Uniquely Saving Lives

Uniqueness

Plasma Protein Therapies are Highly Complex to Manufacture

Plasma protein therapies take 7-12 MONTHS to manufacture. Companies must adhere to rigorous regulatory requirements to ensure manufacturing consistency and pathogen safety.

COSTS ATTRIBUTED TO MANUFACTURING & RAW MATERIALS

14% vs. 57%

PHARMACEUTICALS

PLASMA PROTEINS

http://www.pptaglobal.org/
Value to Patients

As different policies to slow health spending are debated, it is critical to maintain access to lifesaving treatments for rare disease patients. A one-size-fits-all policy does not work for plasma protein therapies as these biologics are not interchangeable.

Plasma protein therapies increase life expectancy, improve quality of life, and reduce life-threatening complications for individuals with plasma protein deficiencies or abnormalities.

10-year survival rate of patients with COMMON VARIABLE IMMUNE DEFICIENCY, by year

- 37% in 1971
- 78% in 1993
- 90% in 2008

«Without treatment, I think my life would be quite different. [...] I know today that I am treated for nine years and my lungs are stabilized, that means I can do some sports, I can do my daily work as I would like to. I have a high quality of life because I have a lot of mobility, I can go wherever I want, I don’t need a wheelchair, I don’t need oxygen and I know also that tomorrow I will have the same quality of life as today.»

Frank, individual with Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency

Life expectancy of a patient born with HAEMOPHILIA, by year

- 13 years in 1900
- 19 years in 1960
- 77 years in 2017

«I was sick a lot and missed out on plenty of things kids my age were doing at that time. During my first year in college my condition worsened pretty fast, I couldn’t keep up with others, and I was often on antibiotics. I received a diagnosis (CVID) in 2008 and my life changed completely once I began receiving immunoglobulin subcutaneously. I remember waking up in the morning and feeling full of energy like I honestly had never felt before. I am truly grateful for receiving a real chance at life.»

Janika, individual with Common Variable Immune Deficiency (PID disorder)
Non-Interchangeability

One-size-fits-all policies are unsuitable for plasma protein therapies and endanger patient health. Each therapy is non-interchangeable due to the pharmacologic and manufacturing differences that exist across different brands and patients’ unique response to the treatments.

“Although the active ingredient in IVIg - purified immunoglobulin - is the same from brand to brand, there are considerable differences in the manufacturing processes used. This results in individual products that cannot be used interchangeably.”

“Immunoglobulins are not interchangeable with each other, they are not generic medicines, prescribers must have long-lasting and readily available preparations.”

“Intravenous Immunoglobulin (IVIG) preparations are not considered identical, and no consideration can be given to approve a specific IVIG product, based on the proven safety and efficacy in established indications for other marketed IVIG products.”

“It is important to realize that there is no single immunoglobulin (Ig) product or method of administration that is suitable for all PID patients. [...] All countries and immunodeficiency centers should have access to a wide spectrum of Ig products, to provide optimal treatment for all immunodeficient patients.”

“It is critical that the bleeding disorder community has access to a diverse range of therapies and that prescriptions for specific clotting factor concentrates are respected and reimbursed.”

http://www.pptaglobal.org/
1. EU Commission proposal for EU Council of Ministers, Recommendation 11.11.2008 for a European action in the field of rare diseases. Definition of a rare disease as having a prevalence of no more than 5 in 10,000 first appeared in Europe in EU regulation 141/2000/EC on orphan medicinal products.


6. Orphanet http://www.orpha.net/consor/cgi-bin/index.php


13. “The Government recognises the need for specific procurement provisions (in comparison to classical pharmaceuticals) in order to maintain adequate supply of plasma protein therapies […]” Adapted from UK Department of Health, Changes to the statutory scheme to control the prices of branded health service medicines. Consultation response 2016, article 20, page 9.

14. Marketing Research Bureau 2011


17. Council of Europe, Resolution CM/Res(2015)2 on principles concerning human normal immunoglobulin therapies for immunodeficiency and other diseases (Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 15 April 2015 at the 1225th meeting of the Ministers’ Deputies)


21. Clinical Guidelines for Immunoglobulin Use; the UK Department of Health, 2008, p. 15


European Plasma Alliance (EPA)

The EPA is an alliance of 10 European private sector plasma collectors:

- Biopharma-Plasma Blood Service Center
- Europlasma
- Haema (Grifols)
- KEDPLASMA
- Octapharma
- Plasma Place
- Plasmavita
- Prothya Biosolutions
- Takeda
- Unicaplasma

186 BUT MORE EUROPEAN PLASMA IS NEEDED.

Employment
Each plasma donation center employs between 15 - 30 people.

Collection Center Impact on Local Economies
Plasma donation centers support local economies through center staff jobs, facilities, equipment, taxes, and donor compensation.

EPA Collection
More than 2.5 million liters of plasma are donated annually in Europe.

Repeat Engagement
On average, a donor donates 17.5 times per year, for an hour to an hour and a half.

January 2023

Global Members

http://www.pptaglobal.org/