



# AB Serum

Your  
questions  
answered

# Your questions answered

## **Q:What is serum?**

A: Serum is the liquid part of your blood left over after the blood has clotted. It contains nutrients and factors that are needed to support the growth of cellular therapies in our laboratory.

## **Q:Why does the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service need serum from AB donors?**

Serum from AB donors (AB serum) is especially useful because it doesn't contain antibodies against other blood groups, and can therefore be used to treat many different patients.

## **Q:What treatment does this support?**

A: Scientists at SNBTS are at the forefront in the development of several innovative cellular therapies for some serious diseases. These include:

- Treatment to restore the sight of patients with eye damage or disease
- The first ever trial to repair blood vessels using blood vessel cells which have been grown in the laboratory
- Projects that use stem cells to help bone and joint repair and also improve the treatment of patients with severe and unstable diabetes
- Using specially grown blood cells to treat some types of lymphoma

These treatments are new and still in development. They have the potential to change the lives of people with serious health conditions.

**Q: Is this a good thing to do?**

A: Yes. By supporting this work you will be helping SNBTS to develop pioneering treatments for a range of diseases which have been very difficult to treat in the past.

**Q: Why have I received this leaflet?**

A: You have received this leaflet because you are blood group AB and our records show that you are able to donate in Glasgow Donor Centre. Currently, we are only taking AB serum donations in Glasgow Donor Centre, as this is a pilot project.

**Q: Is the process different to giving blood normally?**

A: No. The process is just the same as your normal donation, although you might notice that we are using a slightly different type of pack (blood bag). You still have to fill in the Donor Health Check form and meet all of our Donor Selection Guidelines before you can donate, including the fingerprick test. The donation will take the same time as usual. We will also do the routine tests that we do on all donations. We will mark your record so we know that you are an AB serum donor, but please let staff know when you arrive at Glasgow Donor Centre.

**Q:Will any of my donation be used for a patient?**

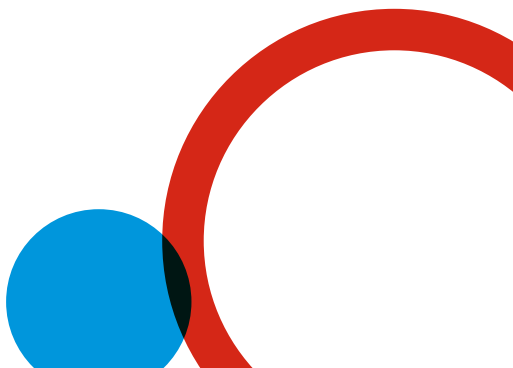
A: We won't be able to use your donation directly for a patient, but by taking part in this project you will benefit many patients in the future. New treatments are currently in various stages of development. Some of the AB serum we collect will be used in the development and testing of new treatments, but we expect the majority to be used in preparing treatments for patients. You can make a unique contribution to this pioneering work.

**Q:What will happen to my donation after it is collected?**

A: Your donation will be handled by our Processing and Testing laboratories. Once the serum has been separated and collected, it will be sent to an SNBTS facility, for use in the development of cellular therapies.

**Q:When will my donation start to help patients?**

A: The serum from your donation will be used for the benefit of patients straight away.



**Q: Yes, I'd like to do this.  
What's the next step?**

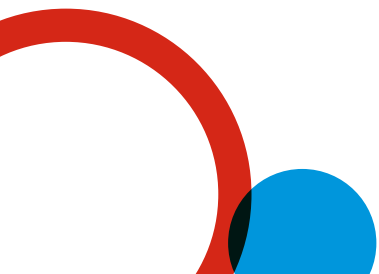
A: Please call us on 0345 90 90 999, or email [NSS.snbtSENquiry@nhs.scot](mailto:NSS.snbtSENquiry@nhs.scot) to book your appointment to donate serum at Glasgow Donor Centre. On booking your appointment, please advise staff that you are an AB serum donor.

**Due to the processing procedure we are only able to take serum donations Monday – Thursday in Glasgow Donor Centre.**

**Q: If all the donors are giving serum, will there be enough blood for patients?**

A: Your blood group AB positive is one of the rarest blood groups, with less than 3% of the population having your blood type. AB positive red cells can only be given to AB positive patients, which means that blood stocks of this group usually remain healthy.

We monitor Scotland's bloodstocks very carefully and would not ask you to give serum if we needed your red cells.



## Contact us

t: 0345 90 90 999

e: [nss.snbtSENquiry@nhs.scot](mailto:nss.snbtSENquiry@nhs.scot)

w: [scotblood.co.uk](http://scotblood.co.uk)

 [givebloodforscotland](https://www.facebook.com/givebloodforscotland)

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