



# Diagnosis of DHTR

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# Stepwise approach

**RISK**



**DETECTION**

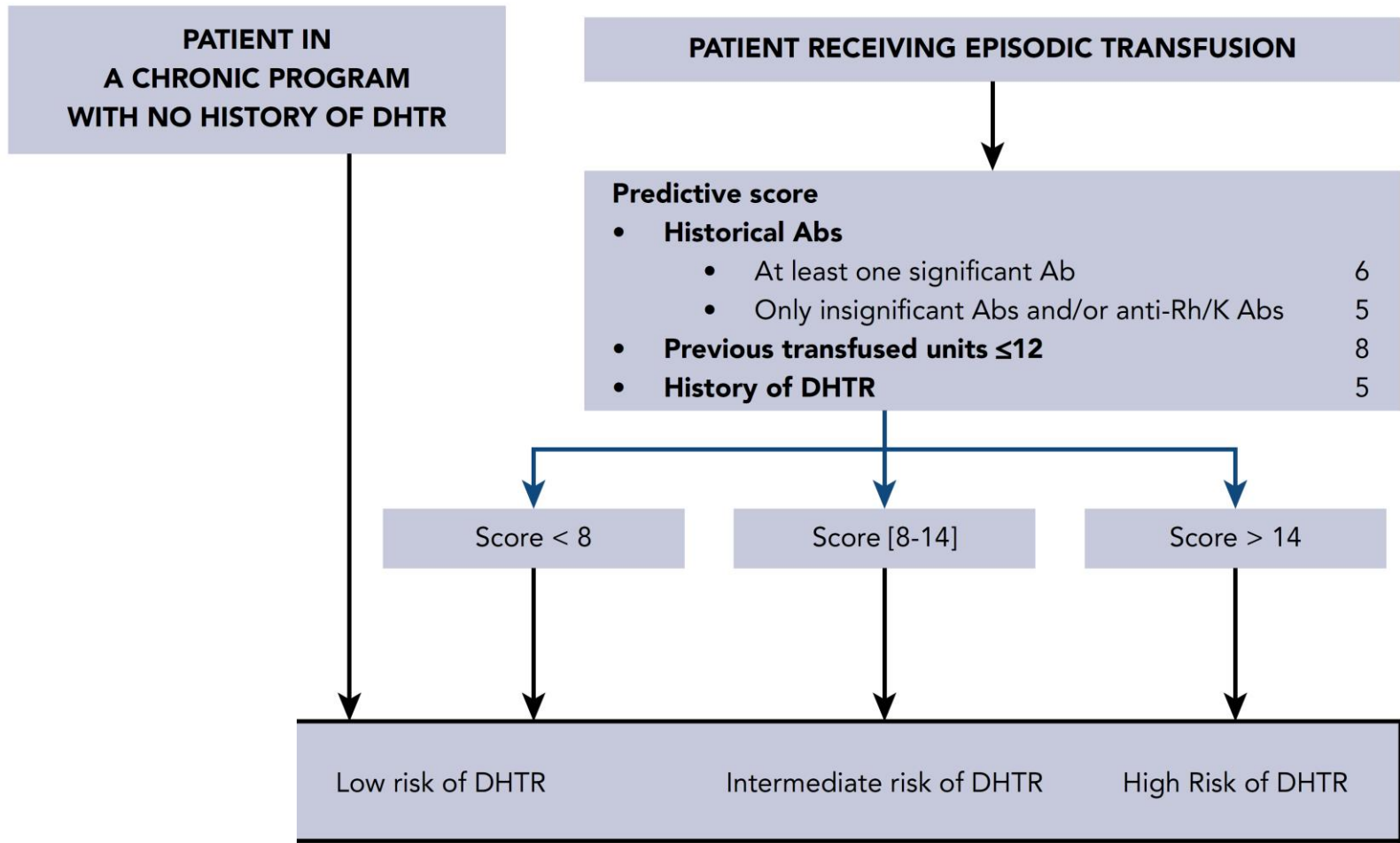
**CONFIRMATION**

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# Risk factors

- History of immunization
  - History of DHTR
  - Transfusion for an acute complication
  - Lower cumulative number of transfused units (<12 units)
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# DHTR risk score



# Stepwise diagnosis

RISK

DHTR risk score

DETECTION

CONFIRMATION

# The sickle cell hemolytic transfusion reaction syndrome

*L.D. Petz, L. Calhoun, I.A. Shulman, C. Johnson, and R.M. Herron*

**TABLE 1. Components of the sickle cell HTR syndrome**

1. Manifestations of an acute or delayed HTR.
2. Symptoms suggestive of a sickle cell pain crisis that develop or are intensified during the HTR.
3. Marked reticulocytopenia (a significant decrease from the patient's usual absolute reticulocyte level).
4. Development of a more severe anemia after transfusion than was present before. A rapid drop in Hb and Hct can occur when hemolysis of donor RBCs is accompanied by suppressed erythropoiesis, as sickle cell RBCs have an intrinsically short survival. In some patients, it is possible that hyperhemolysis of autologous RBCs (bystander immune hemolysis) may play a role in the decrease in Hb and Hct, although more definitive documentation of this phenomenon is necessary.
5. Subsequent transfusions may further exacerbate the anemia and it may become life-threatening or even fatal.<sup>7,8</sup>
6. Patients often have multiple RBC alloantibodies and may also have autoantibodies,<sup>9-12</sup> which makes it difficult or impossible to find compatible units of RBCs. However, in other patients, no alloantibodies are demonstrable,<sup>13</sup> or patients may have alloantibodies for which antigen-negative RBCs are readily obtainable.<sup>14,15</sup>
7. Serologic studies may not provide an explanation for the HTR.<sup>8,13-15</sup> Even RBCs that are phenotypically matched with multiple patient antigens may be hemolyzed.<sup>14</sup>
8. Recovery manifested by reticulocytosis and gradual improvement in Hb may occur only after the withholding of further transfusion. The administration of corticosteroids appears to be an important therapeutic measure in some patients.<sup>10,11,13,15</sup>
9. After a recovery period, similar symptoms may recur following subsequent transfusions, although other patients tolerate further transfusions without incident.<sup>13</sup>

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## 4 prominent features

- Particular timeframe
- Acute SCD symptoms
- Worsening anemia
- No alternative cause is more likely

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# Timeframe

- After the index transfusion
  - Variable from one study to another
    - Reported from Day-1 to Day >25  
Narbey, AJH 2017
    - In general Day-3 to Day-21  
Habibi, AJH 2016  
Mekontso Dessap, AJH 2016
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# Acute SCD symptoms

- Development or intensification of
  - VOC,
  - ACS, or
  - MOF



# Worsening anemia

- ↓ Hb level
    - below the pretransfusion level
    - decrease relative to the value recorded after the index transfusion >25-30% ?  
Vidler, Bjh 2015  
Narbey, AJH 2017
  - ↑ intravascular hemolysis
    - hemoglobinuria
    - jaundice
    - ↑ lactic dehydrogenase  
Vidler, Bjh 2015
      - twice above the baseline value?
    - ↑ bilirubin  
De Montalembert, Haematologica 2011
      - above the baseline value
  - ↓ reticulocytes
-

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# No other obvious cause

- Cases are usually excluded if an alternative cause for symptoms or worsening anemia seems more likely, e.g.,
  - Perioperative blood loss,
  - Transient red cell aplasia due to Parvovirus B19

# Stepwise diagnosis

RISK

DHTR risk score

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Prominent features

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# Confirmation by biological tests

- New RBC immunization

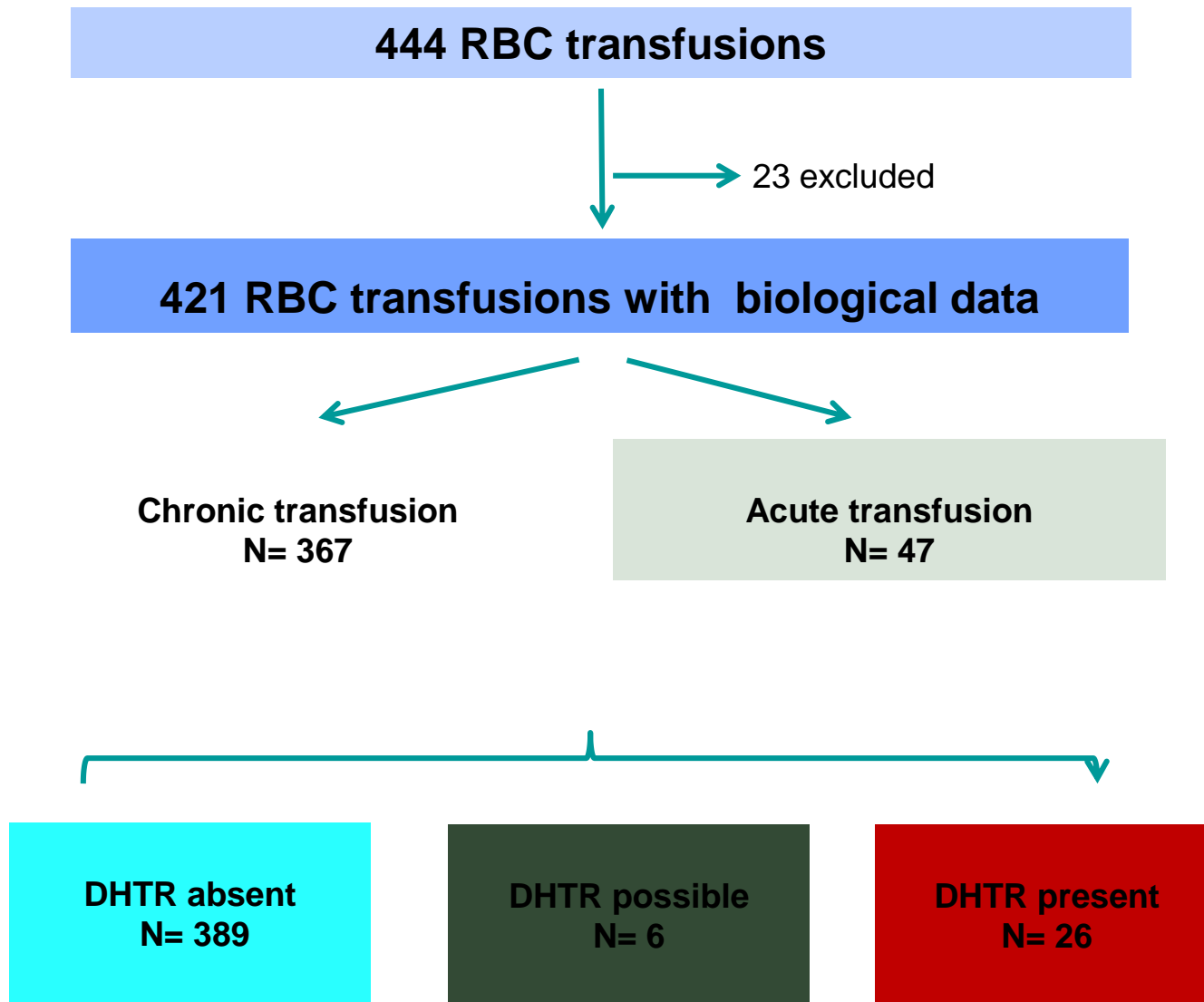
## RESEARCH ARTICLE

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### A diagnostic nomogram for delayed hemolytic transfusion reaction in sickle cell disease

Armand Mekontso Dessap,<sup>1,2</sup> France Pirene,<sup>3,4</sup> Keyvan Razazi,<sup>1,2</sup> Stéphane Moutereau,<sup>5</sup> Shariq Abid,<sup>1</sup> Christian Brun-Buisson,<sup>1,2</sup> Bernard Maitre,<sup>1,6</sup> Marc Michel,<sup>7</sup> Frederic Galacteros,<sup>4,8</sup> Pablo Bartolucci,<sup>4,8</sup> and Anoosha Habibi<sup>4,8\*</sup>





# New immunization

**No DHTR**  
**N= 389**

**Possible DHTR**  
**N= 6**

**DHTR**  
**N= 26**

Positive screening test after the index transfusion

45 (12%)

23 (72%)

New antibody

0/45

12/23

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# Confirmation by biological tests

- New RBC immunization

- *The results of post-transfusion immunohematology analyses **were NOT** taken into account to confirm the diagnosis of DHTR, because no antibodies are detectable in the course of DHTR in many cases.*

Narbey, AJH 2017

- HbA fall



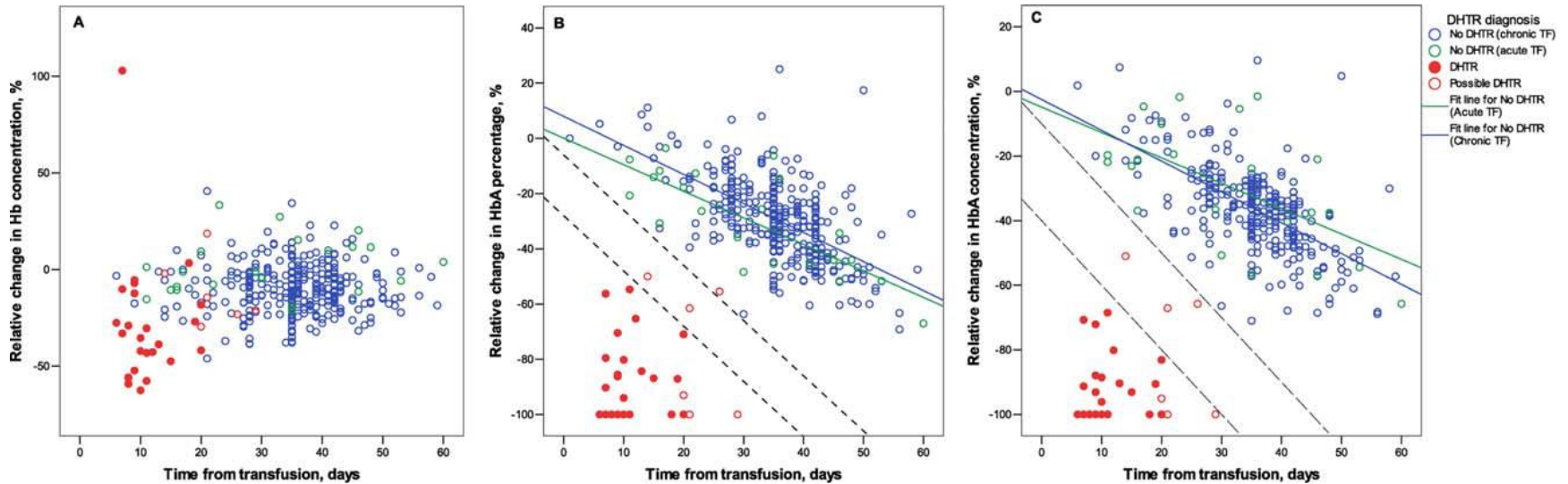


# Fall in Hb and HbA

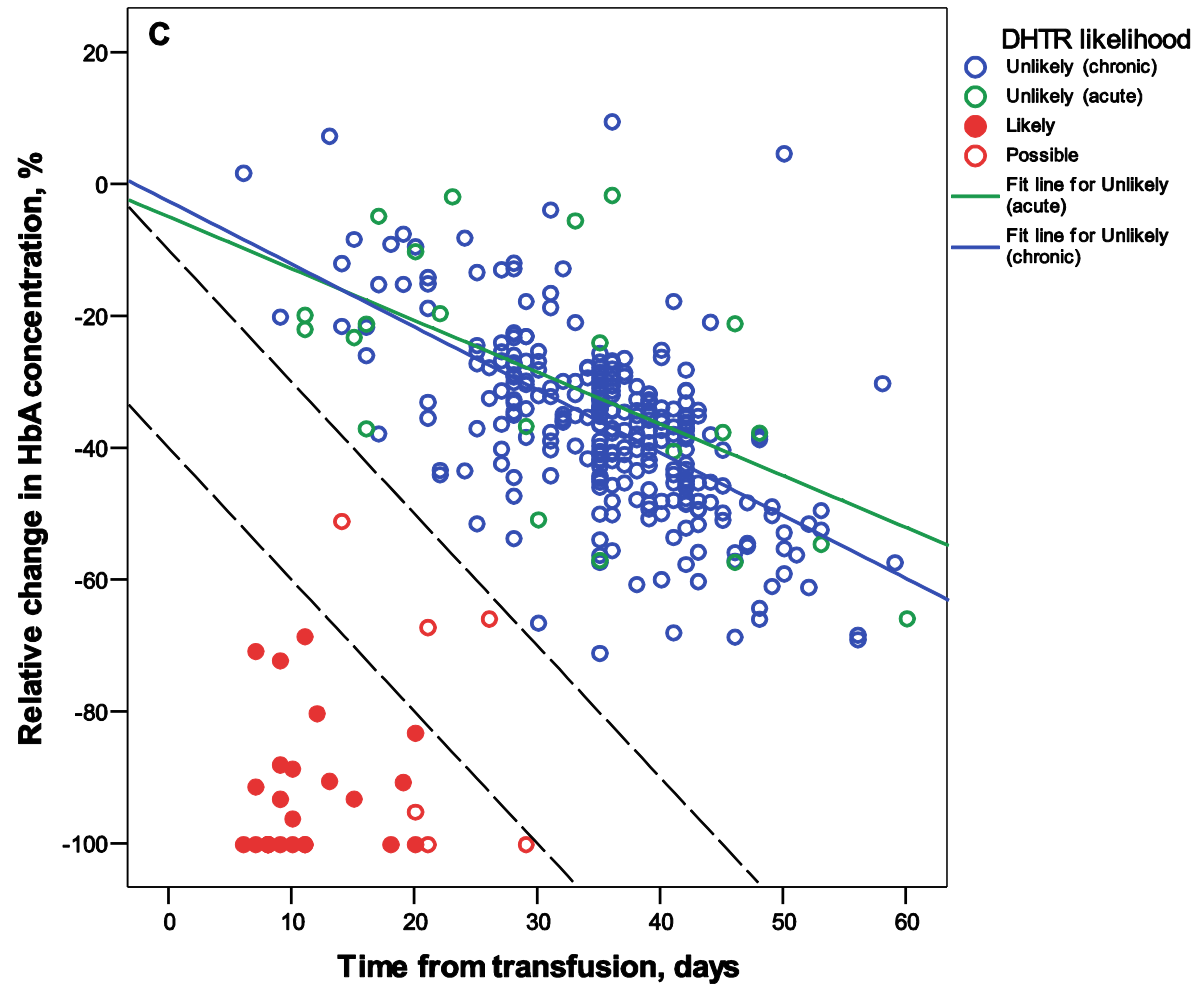
**TABLE I.** Biological Data According to Delayed Hemolytic Transfusion Reaction Diagnosis

	Delayed hemolytic transfusion reaction		<i>p</i> value
	Absent ( <i>n</i> = 389)	Present or possible ( <i>n</i> = 32)	
Hb concentration (g dL <sup>-1</sup> )	8.6 [7.8–9.7]	6.4 [5.2–7.5]	<0.001
Lactic dehydrogenase (IU L <sup>-1</sup> )	397 [298–531]	873 [597–1415]	<0.001
Total bilirubin (mmol L <sup>-1</sup> )	36.0 [22.0–56.0]	49.5 [33.3–77.0]	0.046
Delta Hb concentration (%)	–9.3 [–17.3 to –1.1]	–29.5 [–43.1 to –12.3]	<0.001
Delta HbA percentage (%)	–30.1 [–39.5 to –19.7]	–91.7 [–100.0 to –73.1]	<0.001
Delta HbA concentration (%)	–36.0 [–44.6 to –28.4]	–95.1 [–100.0 to –83.1]	<0.001

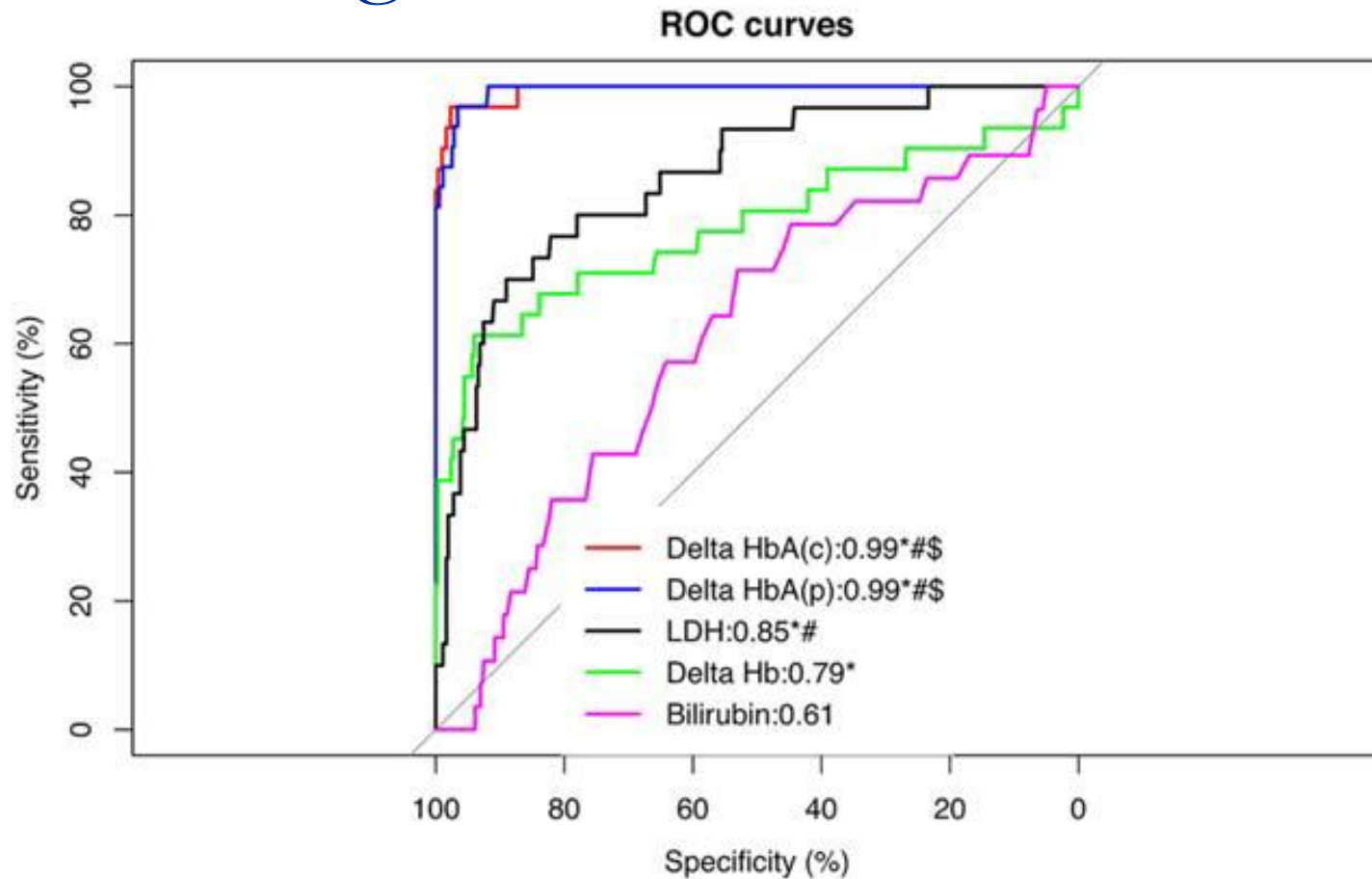
# Relative change in Hb and HbA for DHTR diagnosis



# DHTR nomogram



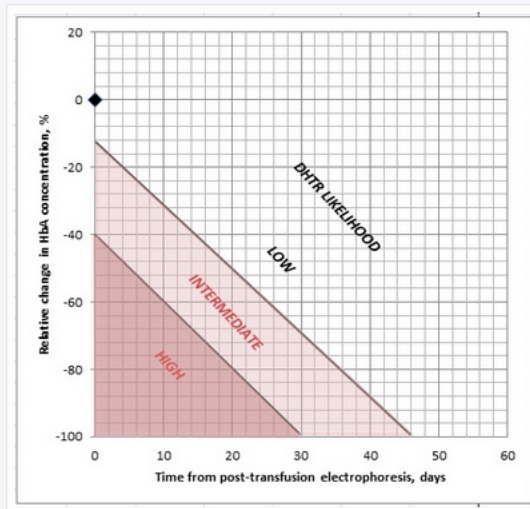
# Relative change in Hb and HbA for DHTR diagnosis



Accueil > Nomogram

## Nomogram

Nomogram for the diagnosis of Delayed Hemolytic Transfusion Reaction as proposed by Mekontso Dessap et al, XXXXX :



Legend: This nomogram is proposed to estimate the likelihood of Delayed Hemolytic Transfusion Reaction (DHTR) in Sickle Cell Disease patients. To use the nomogram, the relative change in patient's hemoglobin A (HbA) concentration and the time interval since post-transfusion electrophoresis are plotted. If the resulting point is above and to the right of the upper limit line, DHTR likelihood is low. If the point is below and to the left of the lower limit line, DHTR likelihood is high. If the point is between the two lines, DHTR likelihood is intermediate. Patients without a post-transfusion hemoglobin electrophoresis cannot be evaluated with the use of the nomogram. The relative change in HbA concentration is calculated as  $100 \times (\text{HbA concentration at DHTR suspicion} - \text{post-transfusion HbA concentration}) / \text{post-transfusion HbA concentration}$ ; with HbA concentration expressed in g/dL (percent HbA = total Hb in g/dL).

[Download nomogram file](#)

Service de Réanimation Médicale

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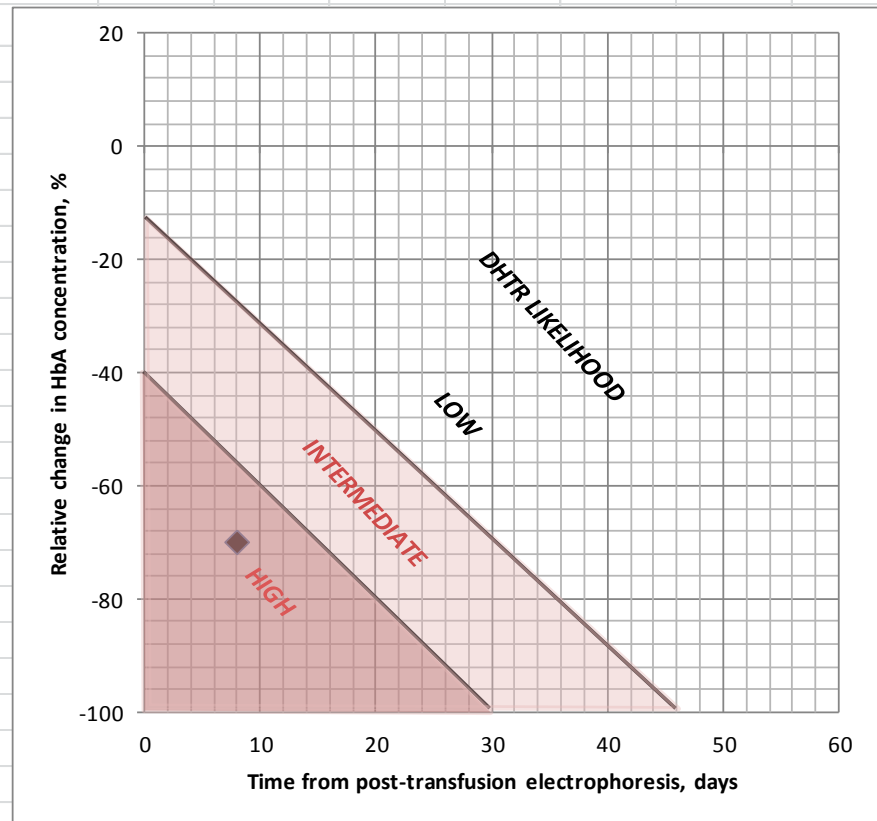
**Nomogram for the diagnosis of Delayed Hemolytic Transfusion Reaction as proposed by Mekontso Dessap et al.**

To use the nomogram, fill the yellow boxes with appropriate values.

	1 <sup>st</sup> assessment (AFTER the index transfusion)	2 <sup>nd</sup> assessment (at DHTR suspicion)
Date	12/06/2016	20/06/2016
Total Hb, g/dL	8,0	6,0
HbA percentage, %	25,0	10,0

**Legend:**

This nomogram is proposed to estimate the likelihood of Delayed Hemolytic Transfusion Reaction (DHTR) in Sickle Cell Disease patients. To use the nomogram, the relative change in patient's hemoglobin A (HbA) concentration and the time interval since post-transfusion electrophoresis are plotted. If the resulting point is above and to the right of the upper limit line, DHTR likelihood is low. If the point is below and to the left of the lower limit line, DHTR likelihood is high. If the point is between the two lines, DHTR likelihood is intermediate. Patients without a post-transfusion hemoglobin electrophoresis cannot be evaluated with the use of the nomogram. The relative change in HbA concentration is calculated as  $100 * (\text{HbA concentration at DHTR suspicion} - \text{post-transfusion HbA concentration}) / \text{post-transfusion HbA concentration}$ ; with HbA concentration expressed in g/dL (percent HbA \* total Hb in g/dL).



# Stepwise diagnosis

RISK

DHTR risk score

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Prominent features

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±New RBC immunization  
HbA fall nomogram

# Conclusions

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- DHTR diagnosis is not consensual
  - A stepwise approach seems reasonable
    1. A predictive score for DHTR risk assessment has been proposed
    2. The proeminent features for DHTR detection are simple to assess
    3. A nomogram for HbA fall has been proposed for DHTR confirmation
      - Importance of post transfusion Hb electrophoresis
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