Global Search for Rare Blood Donors

There’s an old proverb that it takes a village to raise a child, and when a child is sick and needs saving, the international transfusion medicine community has shown time and again it will come together to do whatever it takes. That was the case recently for a three-year old in the United States with a rare blood type.

Zainab is being treated for neuroblastoma, a type of cancer that is most common in babies and young children. She and her family live in Florida, where she is undergoing treatment.

Zainab lacks the Indian b antigen and has anti-In^b. She needs red blood cells from donors who also lack the Indian b antigen, and are group A or O. Although rare, people from Pakistan, India, or Iran are most likely to share this antigen type.

To date, five Indian b negative compatible donors have been found in the United States, United Kingdom and Australia. Although this is encouraging, the search continues for a total of seven to ten compatible donors to support this young patient during her treatment. An Indian b negative Canadian donor identified by Canadian Blood Services was unfortunately not crossmatch compatible for Zainab, however our search continues with the help of many donors in Canada who have come forward.

For more information, go to OneBlood.

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