

# Validation of In-house Antibody screening and Crossmatching of Daratumumab patients

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EAMON CLAVIN, FABIAN MCGRATH, ALISON HARPER,

PROF HELEN ENRIGHT

TALLAGHT UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL, TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY DUBLIN

# Multiple Myeloma

- Malignancy of a single clone of mature plasma cell.
- Incidence of 3.6-6.3 cases per 100,000 in the Republic of Ireland in 2016.
- Non-linear disease progression.
- Overproduction of monoclonal antibodies, infiltration of bone marrow and tissues, metabolic disturbances.
- Characteristic CRAB symptom profile: hypercalcaemia, renal impairment, anaemia and bone degradation.
- Monoclonal gammopathy leads to immunosuppression and infection- leading cause of death.

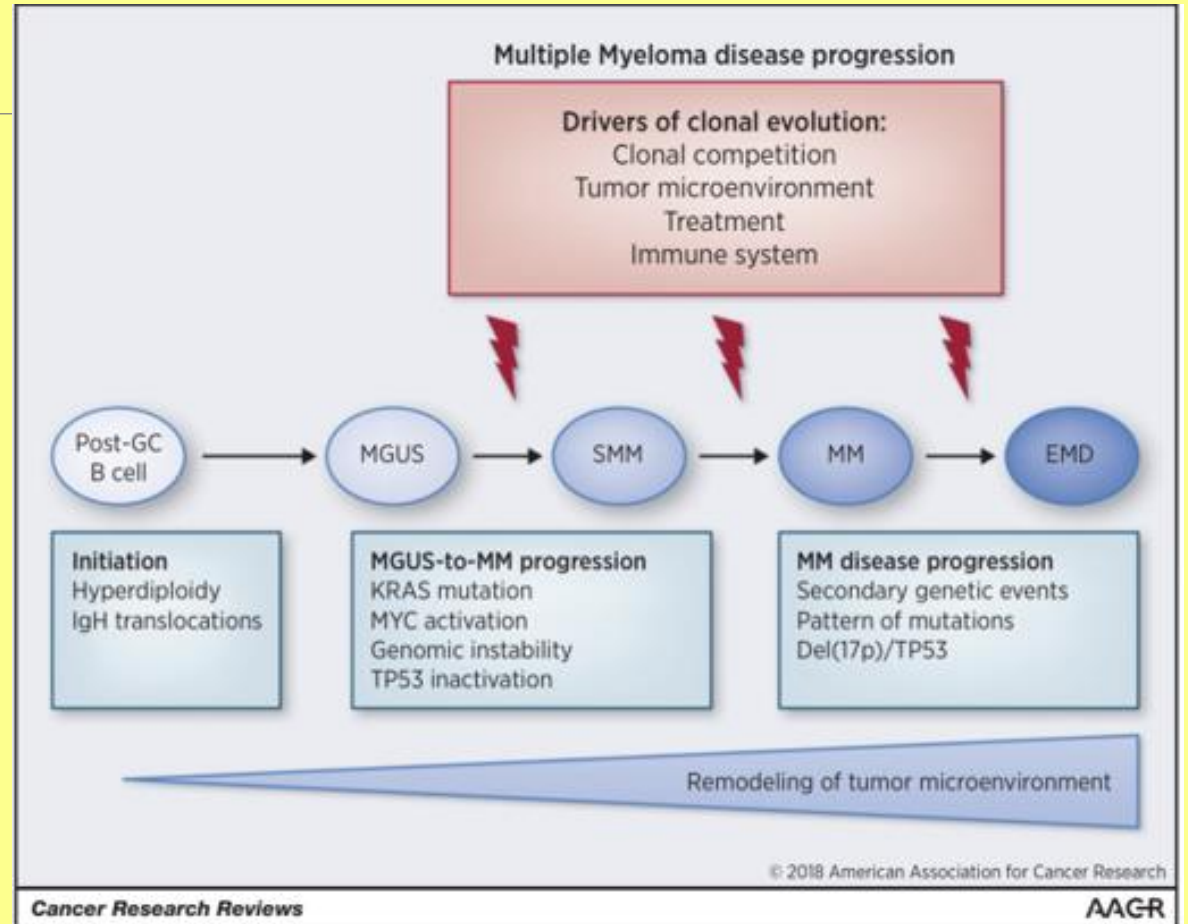


Figure 1: Progression of multiple myeloma

# Treatment

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## AUTOLOGOUS HAEMOPOIETIC STEM CELL TRANSPLANTATION (ASCT)

- Harvesting of patient's own haemopoietic stem cells.
- Conditioning of patient- High intensity Chemotherapy.
- Re-infusion of patient's haemopoietic stem cells and re-engraftment.
- Patient is transfusion dependent and immunocompromised.

## PHARMACOLOGICAL TREATMENT

- Proteasome inhibitors- Bortezomib
- Corticosteroids- Dexamethosone
- Immunomodulatory drugs- Lenalidomide
- Novel Immunotherapies- Anti-CD38, Daratumumab (DARA), Isatuximab

# The CD38 Antigen

- Transmembrane ADP-cyclase, 300 AA in length.
- Contains 12 Disulphide bridges.
- Highly expressed on MM cells.
- May disrupt T-cell activation by interacting with CD31 in Immunological synapse.
- ADP Ribose and Cyclic ADP Ribose produced promote B-cell/plasma cell proliferation.
- Expression also present on NK cells, T-Reg cells and RBCs

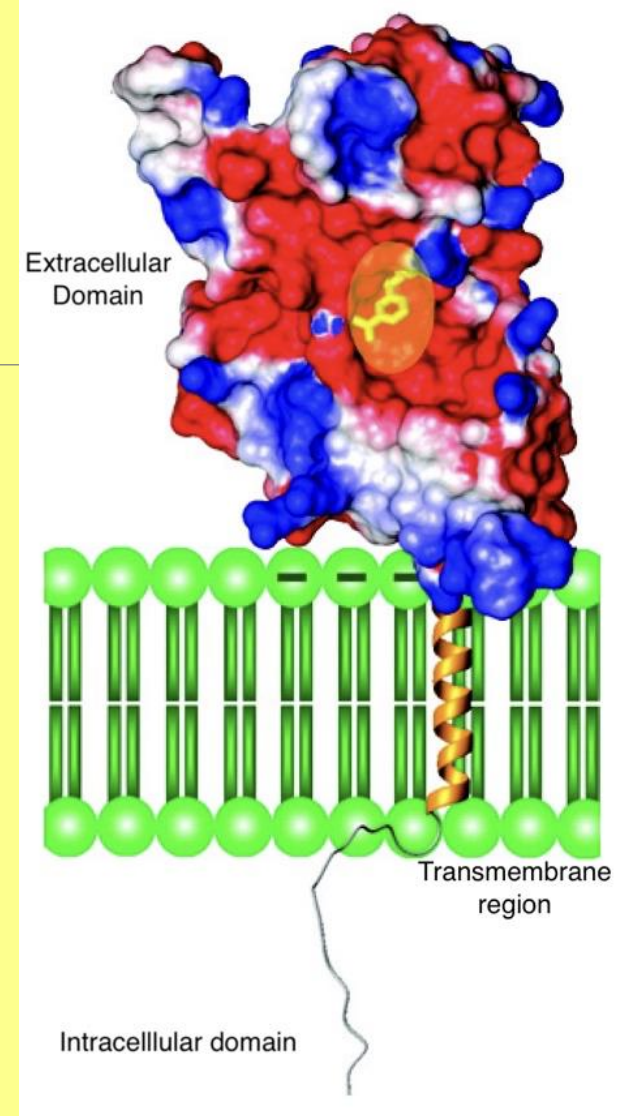


Figure 2: structure of the CD38 antigen

# Daratumumab: Anti-CD38

- Monoclonal antibody therapy first licensed for use in 2015.
- Manufactured by Johnson and Johnson (Janssen) under trade name Darzalex.
- Human IgGk derived from Chinese hamster Ovary cell lines for therapeutic use
- IgG antibody against CD38- Transmembrane ADP-cyclase highly expressed on Plasma cells.
- Multiple modes of anti-MM cell activity: complement fixation, Fc receptor engagement, suppression of Treg response.

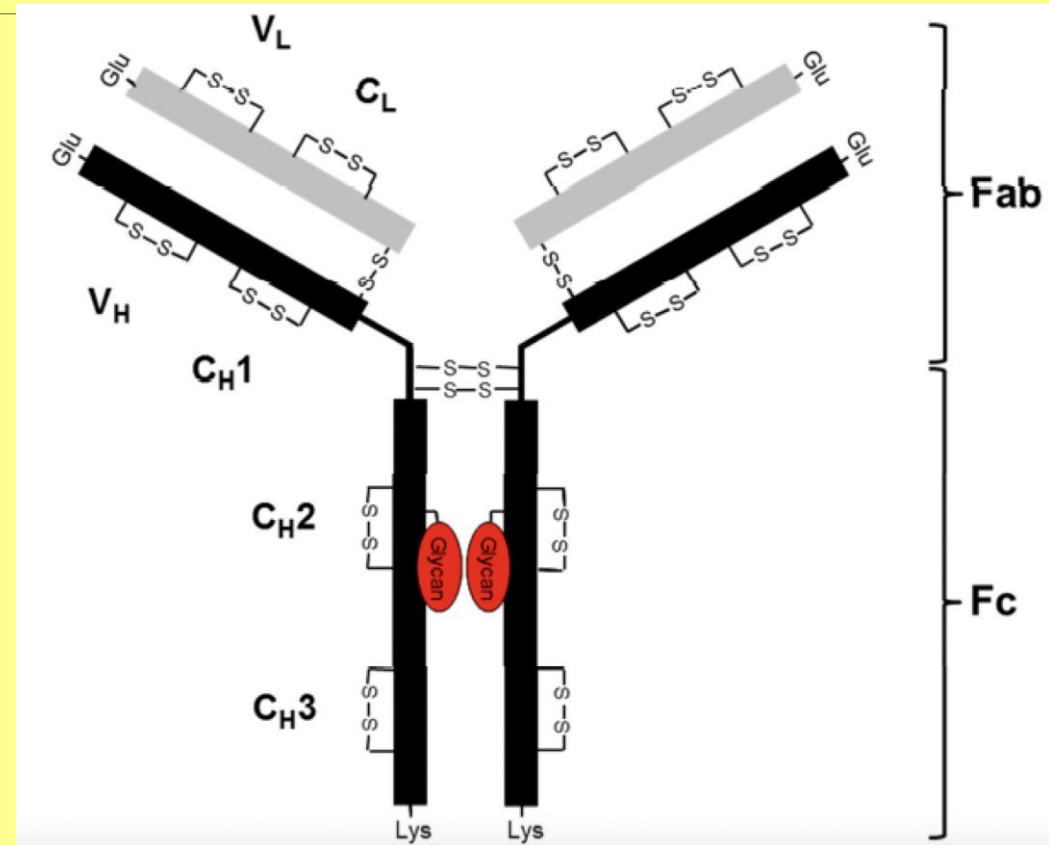


Figure 3: structure of the Daratumumab monoclonal antibody (Janssen 2017)

# Daratumumab Mechanisms of Action

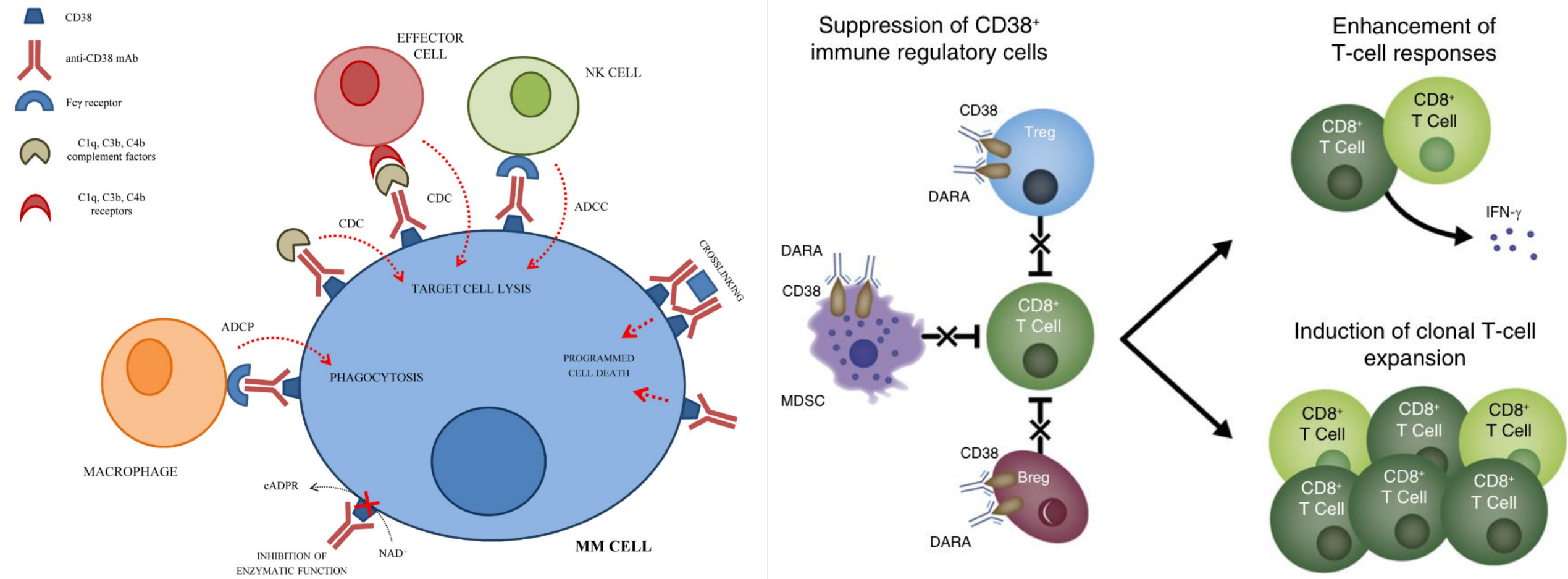


Figure 4 : Mechanisms of MM cell destruction by Daratumumab (Morandi et al. 2018)

# Indications and Efficacy of Daratumumab

- Initially indicated for use as a “last resort” monotherapy for relapsed/Refractory MM
- SIRIUS clinical Trial: OR in 29% of patients, clinical benefit in 34% of patients.
- Indications for use updated in 2019: DARA suitable for use in combination with other drugs.
- Superior complete response of newly diagnosed MM patients receiving regimens containing DARA (48%) vs conventional therapy (26%).
- Drop in Hb (up to 16g/L) and neutrophils common on commencement

Previous Treatment	ASCT Eligibility	Drugs used in combination with Daratumumab
≥ One Prior Therapy	Ineligible	Lenalidomide + Dexamethasone
None (Newly Diagnosed)	Ineligible	Bortezomib + Melphalan + Prednisone
None (Newly Diagnosed)	Eligible	Bortezomib + Thalidomide + Dexamethasone
≥ One Prior Therapy	Unspecified	Bortezomib + Dexamethasone
≥ Three Prior Therapies	Unspecified	Carfilzomib + Dexamethasone
≥ Two Prior Therapies including lenalidomide and a proteasome inhibitor	Unspecified	Pomalidomide + Dexamethasone

# Interference in Pre-Transfusion Testing

- Indirect Antiglobulin Test- basis for antibody screening and ID, and crossmatching.
- Daratumumab binds to CD38 antigen on reagent or donor unit red cells.
- Causes false positive IAT with Panreactive pattern, variable effects on DAT.
- Risk of masking clinically significant red cell antibodies.
- Automated platforms: Reports of carryover of reactivity from daratumumab plasma samples into non-daratumumab samples.
- Interference up to 6 months after stopping therapy.

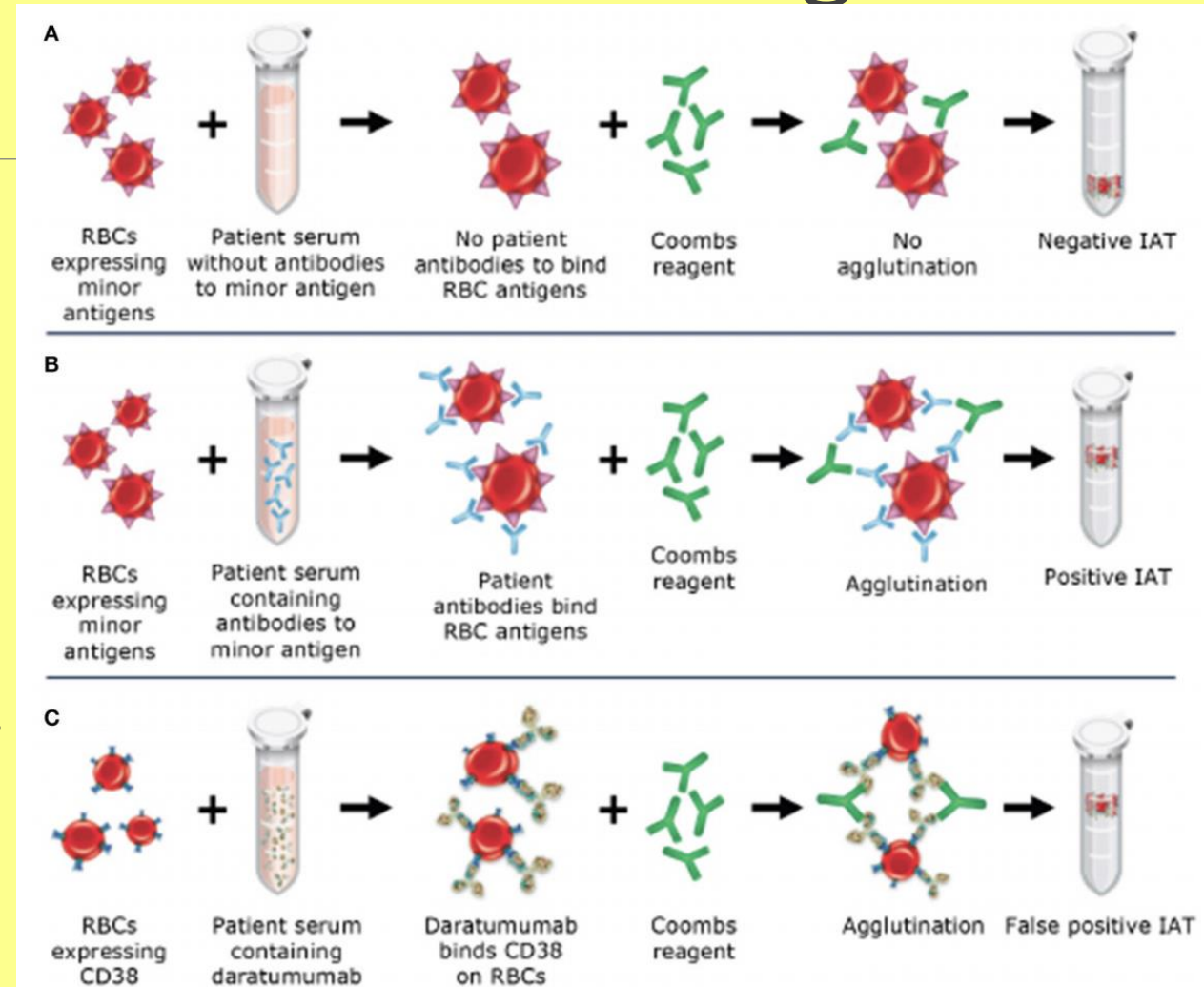


Figure 5: Interference of DARA in IAT-Based tests (Lancman et al 2018)



# Addressing Daratumumab Interference

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- Soluble CD38 and Dara-Fab Fragments- Neutralise Daratumumab or mask CD38 on red cells – expensive.
- Dithiothreitol (DTT) treatment of red cells- Inexpensive, widely used, employed by IBTS.
- DTT- Reducing agent that cleaves Disulphide bridges within proteins.
- Red cells treated with DTT at pH 8.0 are functionally CD38 negative.
- Also removes blood group antigens containing disulphide bonds: Kell, Lutheran, India, Dombrock, Cromer.

# Daratumumab In Tallaght University Hospital

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## PRIOR TO DARATUMUMAB THERAPY

- Samples obtained for Group and save, DAT and Rh/K analysis.
- Patients flagged to receive CMV- Irradiated ABO Rh/K matched red cells
- Samples referred to IBTS for genotyping for Rh, Kell, Duffy, Kidd, MNS

## FOLLOWING COMMENCEMENT OF THERAPY:

- Group and crossmatch samples referred to IBTS: suitable units received ≈24 hours later
- For Platelet issue: Group and save samples processed every 2 weeks using Manual Methods Only

# New Indications: Implications for TUH

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- Estimated increase in DARA patients from Five patients per year to 15 patients per year.
- Estimated annual cost of referral of Daratumumab samples to IBTS for crossmatching: €306,196.80.
- IBTS referral service mainly operational during routine hours.
- Due to unknown risk of analyser carryover, accidental automated processing of DARA renders subsequent patient samples unsuitable for crossmatching- new samples required.

# Objectives of this Study

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- Determine risk of carryover associated with automated processing of Daratumumab samples.
- Mitigate anti-CD38 interference in IAT-based Antibody screening and crossmatching using DTT-treatment of reagent/donor red cells
- Detect underlying antibodies in Daratumumab plasma Via IAT-based antibody screening and crossmatching using DTT-treatment of reagent/donor red cells

# Sample Procurement

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- EDTA whole blood samples from known DARA patients.
- Samples obtained were those that were not processed or processed in-house as part of routine patient care.
- Procurement of archived samples took place between October 2019 and December 2020.
- Total of 59 samples procured from four patients- five contained no DARA, One had an insufficient volume for analysis.

# Study Design

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- Analyser Carryover Study
- Quantitation of DARA.
- DTT treatment of Red cells
- Mitigation of DARA interference in IAT crossmatching and antibody screening using DTT-treated red cells.
- Detection of underlying antibodies in samples containing DARA via IAT crossmatching and antibody screening using DTT-treated red cells.

# Analyser Carryover Study

- Performed using Ortho Vision Max analyser- Column Agglutination Technology.
- Sequential antibody screening of Dara samples using Surgiscreen screening cells.
- Ortho AB Whole blood control run after each sample-negative control.
- DAT performed on WB control after every 10 DARA samples
- Analyser carryover defined as:
  - Positive screen observed with WB control
  - or
  - Positive DAT observed on WB control RBCs

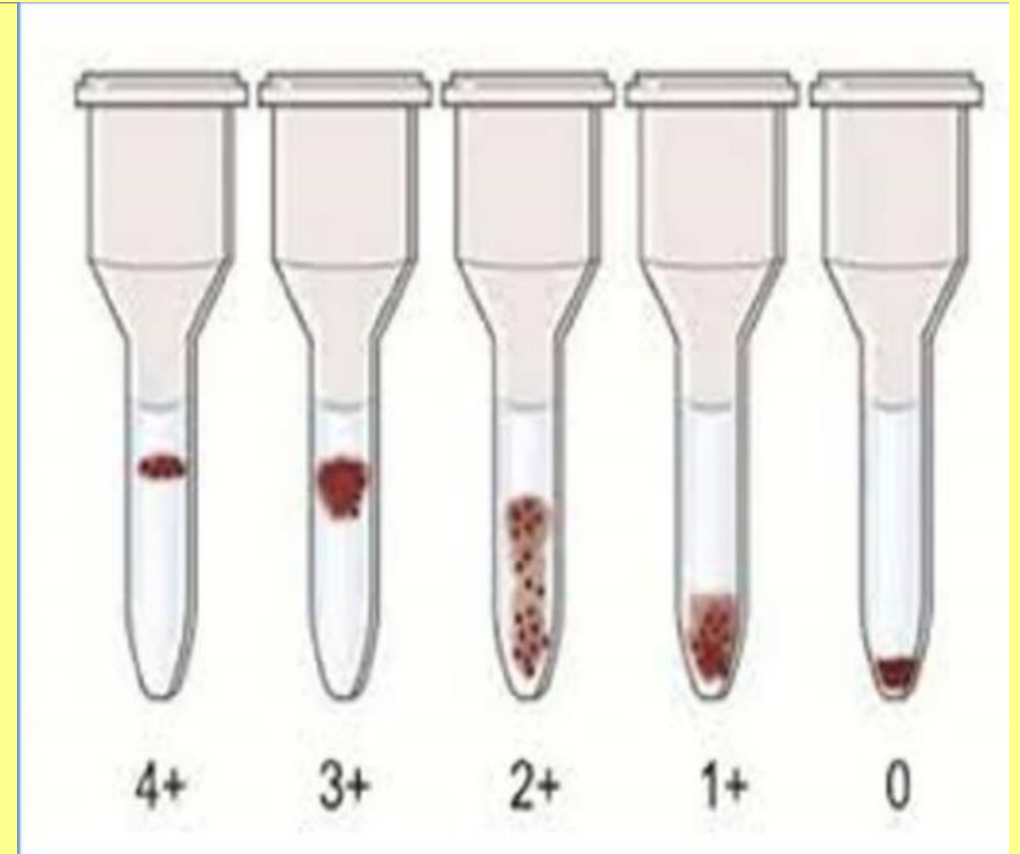


Figure 6: Grading criteria for CAT-based testing

# Daratumumab Quantitation

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- Performed to estimate abundance of DARA in each sample.
- Performed using Ortho Vision Max analyser.
- Serial dilutions of DARA plasma in PBS at dilutions of 1:1- 1:1024 and tested against a Surgiscreen Screening cell Via IAT.
- Inverse of lowest dilution at which 1+ reaction occurred taken as Dara Titre.



# DTT-Treatment of red cells

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- Batches of Grifols Screencyte Screening cells and Donor Unit red cells treated using 0.2M DTT at pH 8.0
- 400µl of RBCs washed four times in PBS pH 7.3
- Incubated with 2000µl DTT @37 degrees for 40 minutes with agitation.
- Washed four times in PBS pH7.3- made up to 3-5% suspension.
- Screening cells with known expression of K and E antigens phenotyped using anti-E and Anti-K antisera
- Successful DTT-treatment defined as destruction of K antigen and preservation of E antigen

# Mitigation of Daratumumab Interference

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## ANTIBODY SCREENING

- Confirm Dara interference in IAT antibody screens (achieved in carryover study).
- Use Tube IAT method 15 minutes @37°C with LISS using Dara plasma vs DTT-Treated Screenshot cells.
- Washed three times, tested using AHG.
- Macroscopically graded, negatives confirmed using IgG coated red cells
- Successful Mitigation- elimination of Dara Interference in DTT-IAT screen

## CROSSMATCHING

- Confirm Dara interference in IAT crossmatching (achieved using Ortho vision Max) using ABO-compatible units.
- Tube IAT crossmatch 15 minutes @ 37°C using DTT-treated donor unit red cells.
  - Washed four times, tested using anti-IgG
  - Macroscopically graded, negatives confirmed using IgG coated red cells
  - Successful mitigation: Elimination of Dara interference in DTT-IAT screen.

# Detection of underlying antibodies

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- Assessment of ability of DTT-treated screening cells and Donor unit red cells to detect antibodies in DARA Plasma.
- Daratumumab plasma spiked with Reagent weak anti-D (0.99 IU/mL), Weak anti-c and weak anti-Fy<sup>a</sup> (titre: 4).
- DARA samples with a titre of at least 512 diluted 1:1 with weak antisera yielding final strengths of 0.48 IU/mL (anti-D) or titres of 2 (weak anti-c and anti-Fy<sup>a</sup>).
- Tested using tube-IAT antibody screens using DTT-treated screening cells and crossmatching using DTT-treated donor unit red cells with expression of corresponding antigen.
- Successful Detection: defined by removal of DARA interference and positive antibody screen and positive crossmatches with red cells possessing corresponding antigen.

# Tube IAT Grading

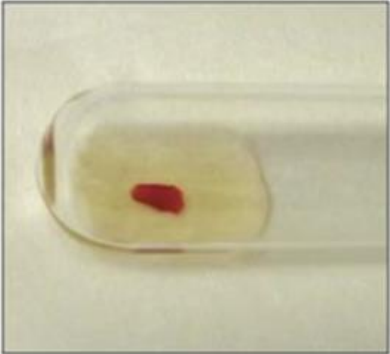
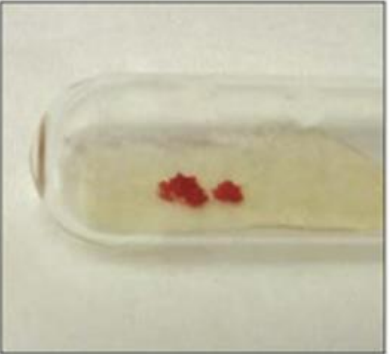




			Result	Grade
			Absence of viable cells (Complete Haemolysis)	Haemolysis (Positive)
4+ Reaction	3+ Reaction	2+ Reaction	Single Large Agglutinate, No free Cells	4+
			Multiple large Agglutinates, few free cells	3+
1+ Reaction	Negative reaction	Haemolysis	Small fine Agglutinates, some free cells	2+
			Very small fine agglutinates, abundance of free cells	1+
			No agglutinates, only free cells	Negative

Figure 7: macroscopic grading criteria for IAT tube investigations using DTT-treated cells.

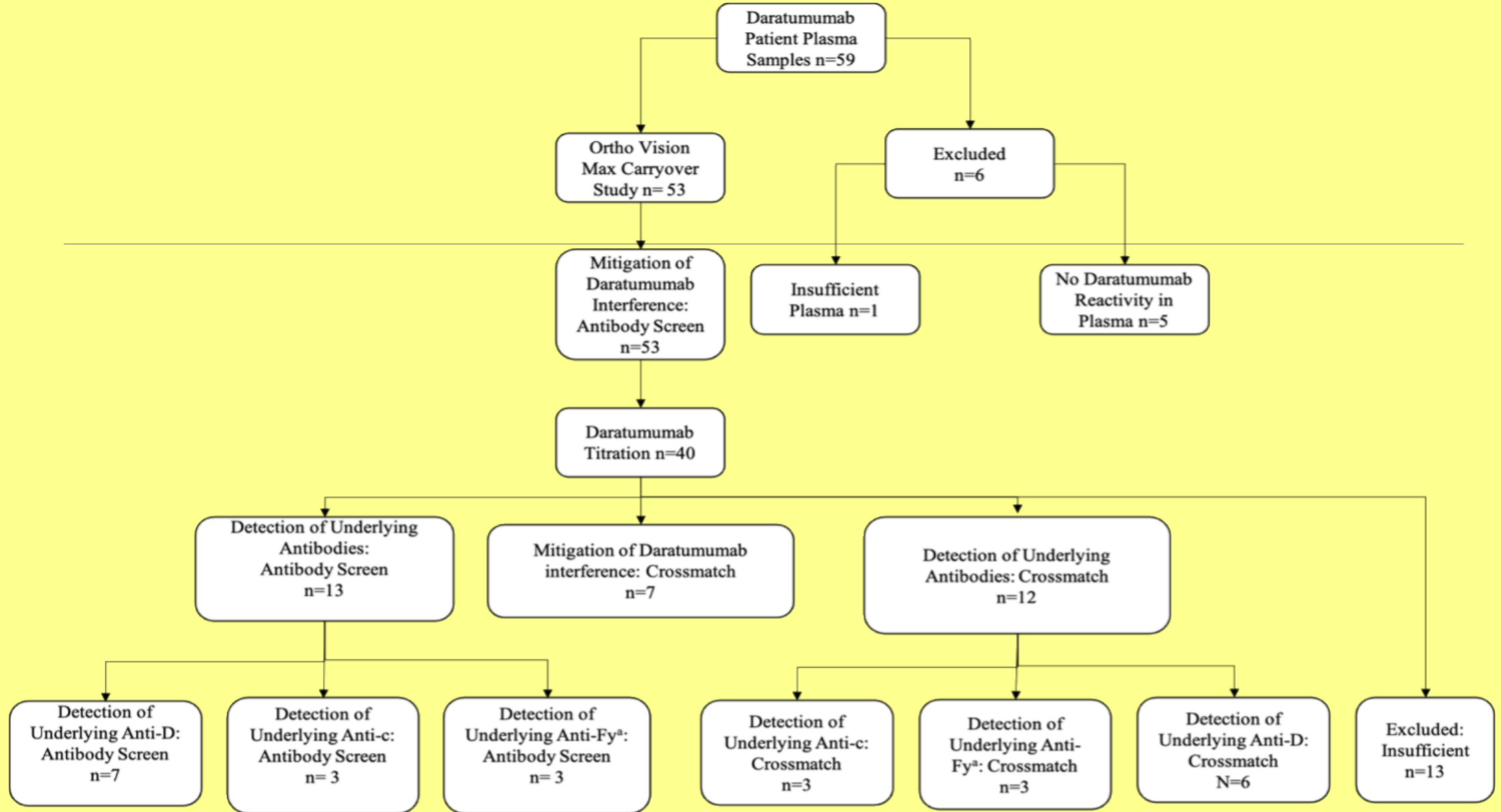


Figure 8: Breakdown of Samples used in all DARA investigations

# Daratumumab Analyser Carryover Results

- 58 antibody screens performed, 5 samples Containing no Daratumumab.
- 2+ panreactivity Observed in majority of samples.
- No carryover observed in AB whole blood control when processed after any sample.
- DAT performed on Whole blood control cells after every 10<sup>th</sup> DARA sample.
- No carryover observed in any of the DATs performed

Table 1: Results of Daratumumab Analyser carryover study

IAT Antibody Screen Result			Frequency	Carryover
S1	S2	S3	n (%)	n (%)
2+	2+	2+	44 (75.9)	0 (0%)
2+	2+	1+	4 (6.9)	0 (0%)
1+	1+	1+	3(5.2)	0 (0%)
1+	w+	w+	1(1.7)	0 (0%)
w+	w+	w+	1(1.7)	0 (0%)
-	-	-	5 (8.6)	0 (0%)
Total			58	0

# Results of Daratumumab Quantitation

- Most common Dara titre observed was  $\geq 1024$  (57.5%)
- Limits of detection-could not distinguish between higher titres of Daratumumab.
- Relationship testing between Daratumumab titre and antibody screen test.
- Chi Square coefficient: 47.27 ( $p > 0.001$ )
- Cramer's V Value: 0.628 ( $p > 0.001$ )
- Strong association between Daratumumab titre and strength of Screen interference

Table 2: Titration results of 40 Daratumumab Samples

		Frequency (n)	Proportion (%)
Daratumumab Titre	1	1	2.5
	16	1	2.5
	32	2	5.0
	128	1	2.5
	256	3	7.5
	512	9	22.5
	$\geq 1024$	23	57.5
	Total	40	100.0

# Results of Daratumumab Mitigation

- Four batches of screening cells and three donor units treated: all verified by loss or preservation of E or K antigens respectively.
- 53 antibody screens performed- complete mitigation of DARA interference regardless of initial IAT strength
- Seven Crossmatches performed using DTT-treated donor unit cells.
- Complete mitigation of DARA interference regardless of titre

Table 3: Results of Antibody screening and crossmatching using DTT-untreated and treated red cells

Antibody Screen Result			Pre-DTT Treatment	Post-DTT Treatment
S1	S2	S3	n (%)	n (%)
2+	2+	2+	44 (83)	0
2+	2+	1+	4 (7.5)	0
1+	1+	1+	3(5.7)	0
1+	w+	w+	1(1.9)	0
w+	w+	w+	1(1.9)	0
-	-	-	0 (0)	53 (100)
Total			53	

Patient Group	Daratumumab Titre	Unit Phenotype	CAT IAT Crossmatch (Pre-DTT treatment)	Tube IAT Crossmatch (post DTT Treatment)
O RhD positive	≥1024	O RhD positive Fy <sup>a+</sup>	2+	Negative
O RhD positive	≥1024	O RhD positive c+	2+	Negative
O RhD positive	≥1024	O RhD positive Fy <sup>a+</sup>	3+	Negative
O RhD positive	≥1024	O RhD positive c+	2+	Negative
A RhD negative	≥1024	O RhD positive Fy <sup>a+</sup>	2+	Negative
A RhD negative	≥1024	A RhD negative c+	2+	Negative
A RhD positive	512	A RhD negative c+	1+	Negative



# Detection of Underlying antibodies

- 13 antibody screens using antibody-spiked Dara plasma.
- Positive antibody screens observed in all Antibody screens.
- No Dara interference observed in any antibody screen.
- 12 crossmatches performed using Antisera-spiked Dara plasma and Antigen-positive DTT-treated.
- All 12 crossmatches positive-successful detection of all underlying antibodies.

Table 4: Detection of underlying antibodies in Daratumumab plasma via antibody screening and crossmatching using DTT-treated red cells

Spiked antibody	Number of samples tested (n)	Spiked Antibody activity (IU/ml)	Spiked Antibody Titre	Daratumumab Titre	Daratumumab Interference	Antibody Detected
Anti-D	6	<0.5	N/A	≥1024	Absent	Anti-D
Anti-D	1	<0.5	N/A	512	Absent	Anti-D
Anti-Fy <sup>a</sup>	3	N/A	2	≥1024	Absent	Anti-Fy <sup>a</sup>
Anti-c	3	N/A	2	≥1024	Absent	Anti-c

Spiked antibody	Number of samples tested (n)	Spiked Antibody activity (IU/m/)	Spiked Antibody Titre	Daratumumab Titre	Donor ABO group	Unit Phenotype	Crossmatch result
Anti-D	6	<0.5	≥1024	≥1024	O	RhD+	Positive
Anti-Fy <sup>a</sup>	3	2	≥1024	≥1024	O	Fy <sup>a</sup> +	Positive
Anti-c	3	2	≥1024	≥1024	O	c+	Positive

# Key Findings

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- Carryover of DARA into non-Dara samples on the Ortho Vision Max did not occur and was independent of strength of interference and antibody titre.
- The strength of DARA interference in IAT investigations is strongly related to the titre of Daratumumab in patient's samples
- Successful removal of CD38 and K antigens was achieved using DTT at pH 8.0.
- Complete mitigation of Daratumumab from 53 antibody screens and seven crossmatches was achieved using DTT treatment of red cells.
- Detection of underlying antibodies in Daratumumab plasma was achieved in 13 screens and 12 crossmatches.

# Limitations

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- Risk of carryover in samples with 3+/4+ DARA interference remains unknown- Interference of this strength is unlikely.
- Titration is not a conventional technique for DARA quantitation.
- Could not distinguish between titres of 1024 or greater.
- Shelf life of DTT-treated cells not investigated.
- Ability to detect, but not identify underlying antibodies assessed.

# Implications for TUH

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- Detection of underlying antibodies alone is likely to be sufficient for provision of blood components to Daratumumab patients in TUH.
- Financial cost reductions: €10.56 per in-house DTT-IAT crossmatch compared with €490.70 for referral testing. Estimated annual cost :€6,589.44 vs €306,196.80.
- Favourable Turnaround time: 2-4 Hours for In-house testing compared to approximately 24 hours
- British Society for Haematology : reagents for Antibody screening should be CE marked where possible- no CE mark for DTT.
- No EQA scheme for DTT-IAT testing- Investigations outside of INAB scope.

# Conclusion

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- Daratumumab causes false positive IAT reactions and may mask underlying antibodies
- Change in Daratumumab indications for use may result in up to 15 patients per year receiving the monoclonal antibody therapy in TUH.
- Ortho Vision Max analyser is sufficient for Forward and reverse grouping of Dara patients due to minimal risk of carryover.
- DTT-treatment of screening cells and donor unit cells provides an inexpensive sensitive, reproducible means of screening and crossmatching patients receiving Daratumumab.

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