Improving minority blood donation. Anthropological approach in a migrant community.

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Marseille. France
Issues of blood transfusion for subsaharian migrants

- Blood group polymorphism leads to **slightly distinctive blood types in populations** around the world, with different combinaison of ABO, Rhesus and others RBC’s Ag systems
- Rare blood types are easier to find in individuals with similar ethnic origins
- In countries with large migrant populations finding **rare blood types for transfusion** can be challenging especially for **sub-Saharan African** immigrants living in countries with predominantly European populations
- This issues is mostly relevant for individual with hereditary **sickle cell disease** ...
- Analysis of socio-demographic data at the blood bank showed that only few comorian immigrants living in Marseille were regular blood donnor, and that they were records of several case of transfusion difficulties involving comorian patient having sickle cell disease.
- French Blood collection is voluntary and non paid.

**Questions:**
Are traditional cultural values or lack of knowledge discouraging routine donation? How to promote Blood donation in this community?
Marseille, France:

Long immigration history:
- borders countries
- Mediterranea countries

Recent immigration:
- Sub-Saharan Africa: Comorian 70,000

Typical Sub-Saharan African RBC’s phenotypes

Comorian society
- Patriarchal, Matrilinear filiation and matrifocal.
- Islam sunnite de rite Chaféite
- Polygamy (F and M)
- Djinn’s life is very importante in human life
Methodology
Anthropology and community participation

- Studies of literature (anthropological, and medical)
- Fieldworks in Marseille and in Comorian Archipelago. In the hospitals, and laboratory.
- Qualitative interviews and observation with participative action
- Creation of blood donor association from Comorian in Marseille:
  ➢ first or second generation
  ➢ health professionals (md, nurses, laboratory’s technician)
  ➢ Involvement of several Comorian religious and political leaders
Anthropological results

Barriers to blood donation
1. Misperception concerning fate of blood: sale?, given to who ????
2. Fear of discovering illness «you are in good health if you do not know your are ill»
3. Uncertainty as to the policy of Islam
4. After-effects of blood donation:
   - risk of «losing one’s forces»
   - disease infection «you never know what you might catch from those needles”
5. Symbolic differences in blood between communities

Positive effect to blood donation
1. Recommendation of life-saving gift by Islam
2. Responsibility of the community for its own health + community improvement of the health of each fellow citizen
3. Improvement of citizenship feeling + Symbolic means of integration into the host country
Culturally adapted recruitment message

Il existe 4 catégories de groupes sanguins

A / B / AB / O

Lors d'une transfusion sanguine le sang du donneur et celui du receveur doivent être compatible.

O → DONNEUR UNIVERSEL
AB → RECEVEUR UNIVERSEL

Pourquoi donner son sang

L'étude effectuée sur les groupes sanguins de la population comorienne réalisée par le Dr J. CHIARONI au cours de l'année 2004 a permis de mettre en évidence que :

- La fréquence de certains groupes sanguins est plus importante dans la population comorienne par rapport à la population de donneurs de sang.
- Il existe très peu de poches de sang provenant de la population comorienne.

Ce qui aboutit souvent à des situations critiques !!!

Hasibabu ndé zé taabu yemadohoimana waho wunono wahomdji wa Marseille, wazi parao hahuntra ndamu yidjo wudungana néziungo zahatru siwakomori, pwapangha chama lawusaidiana ridotoowa, hamakati, yédamu yahatru yili yidjé yisayidiyé hénamdzima ndasi yikao ngudjokahutadjia yatriloif damui.

Donc, il est nécessaire d'avoir une banque de données sanguines comoriennes au niveau des Etablissements Français de Sang afin de pouvoir pallier aux besoins.

- Pour sauver des vies
- Pour subvenir aux hémorragies importantes (accidents, accouchements)
- Pour traiter de nombreux malades comoriens

Conditions pour être donneur de sang

- De 18 à 65 ans
- Ne pas être à jeun
- Penser au minimum 50 kg
- Ne pas être sous traitement médical
- 5 jours avant
- Une intervalle de 8 semaines obligatoires entre chaque don

Ndé zé charoutui zamdu wu toowa né damu

- Mdru yaké namaha 18 hata 65 ans
- Mdru ya lié bahidru rangu
- Hawuchachi yiké ngéna kila 50
- Mdru yatsiké harmwiya malalawo zé tsihu tsanu za tchendé
- Yiké pvapriré muda wa sémeni nané (8) bayina yahé kando ya handani né ya pvili


LES 7 PRINCIPES FONDAMENTAUX DE L'E.F.S

ANONYMAT \ VOLONTARIAT
BENEVOLAT \ HYGIENE
SECURITE \ NON PROFIT \ QUALITE
Action: Diffusion of the message + specific collect.

Involvement of religious and political leaders
Members of ADOC. Spreading the information
- Community events
- Specific Medias (community newspapers and Comorian speaking local radio sessions).
- Coranic school
- In shiNgazidja and french

Specific blood collect.
92 volunteered. 59 donnors, 7 rare blood types
Importance of malaria (14%) and syphilitic marquers (8, 5%)
Discards the entire collection batch
Lessons Learned:
Community leaders and professionals, a key factor!

Negative
Specific collect was an error
High rate of infectious marker
Excessive community pressure

Positive
Conduct effective community action
Community’s professional, religious and political lead reaching the second generation is more effective
Autonomisation of the message

Since then, we changed also our “institution behaviour”
collect in specific part of the town
adapt our blood testing to find rare blood type
adapt our message to the diversity
THANK-YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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