| TED Talk - How Do Blood Transfusions Work? Question: How do blood transfusions work? | |
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| Antigen – Foreign body that auses an immune response William Halstead performed one of the first known successful blood transfusions on his sister in 1881. 1667 – Jean Baptist Denis performed a cross-species transfusion of sheep's blood on a human suffering from psychosis. The second injection caused a sever immune response resulting in fever, back pain, burning in the arm, and thick, black urine. Blood types much match for a transfusion to be successful Antibodies will recognize foreign proteins from mismatched blood types (antigens) and target them for destruction. Antibodies/antigens bind and are expelled in the urine. Severe clots can cause death 1901 – Discovery of blood types. 1907 – Blood samples were mixed prior to transfusion to check for clotting. 1914 – Sodium Citrate removes calcium from blood and allows for storage. 1916 – Heparin invented (modern anticoagulant). | |

- Antibodies recognize antigens and attempt to destroy them by binding with them and expelling them through the urine. Severe clotting can cause death
- The invention of Heparin allowed for long term storage of blood and the creation of modern blood banks.