

**Supplementary table 1.** Blood analytical parameters

	GROUP I			GROUP II			GROUP III			P value		
	ITT (n=72)	mITT (n=68)	PP (n=53)	ITT (n=73)	mITT (n=69)	PP (n=54)	ITT (n=65)	mITT (n=63)	PP (n=52)	ITT	ITTv	PP
<b>Hemoglobin (g/dL)*</b>												
· Basal	14.0 ± 1.62	13.9 ± 1.62	14.0 ± 1.65	13.6 ± 1.56	13.6 ± 1.57	13.8 ± 1.45	13.8 ± 1.44	13.8 ± 1.46	14.0 ± 1.35	.34	.40	.49
· Discharge from ICU	10.0 ± 1.24	9.9 ± 1.25	10.0 ± 1.24	10.1 ± 1.01	10.1 ± 1.02	10.0 ± 1.03	10.1 ± 1.39	10.1 ± 1.39	10.2 ± 1.34	.32	.31	.43
· Hospital discharge	11.0 ± 1.50	11.0 ± 1.52	11.1 ± 1.54	11.0 ± 1.32	11.0 ± 1.34	11.1 ± 1.29	11.1 ± 1.54	11.1 ± 1.53	11.0 ± 1.45	.97	.90	.97
· Consultation after Discharge	12.7 ± 1.40	12.7 ± 1.40	12.7 ± 1.40	12.4 ± 1.29	12.4 ± 1.30	12.5 ± 1.30	12.4 ± 1.19	12.4 ± 1.20	12.3 ± 1.15	.43	.47	.57
<b>Reticulocytes (cel/μL)**</b>												
· Basal	79736 ± 30186	80247 ± 30250	83152 ± 31538	81912 ± 39108	82427 ± 39703	81798 ± 42147	77526 ± 31332	78466 ± 31375	78646 ± 30677	.96	.98	.66
· Hospital discharge	139781 ± 52818	139781 ± 52818	138549 ± 52490	128735 ± 50524	128735 ± 50524	129340 ± 51463	117644 ± 30732	117644 ± 30732	118105 ± 31382	.16	.16	.23
· Consultation after discharge	91756 ± 37211	91756 ± 37211	90255 ± 36073	83450 ± 25726	83450 ± 25726	83067 ± 25904	80414 ± 30869	80414 ± 30868	80570 ± 31095	.40	.40	.49
<b>Reticulocyte Index †</b>												
· Basal	1.4 ± 0.57	1.4 ± 0.57	1.4 ± 0.61	1.4 ± 0.85	1.4 ± 0.86	1.5 ± 0.93	1.3 ± 0.61	1.4 ± 0.61	1.4 ± 0.60	.95	.98	.89
· Hospital discharge	1.8 ± 0.74	1.8 ± 0.74	1.8 ± 0.77	1.7 ± 0.70	1.7 ± 0.70	1.7 ± 0.71	1.5 ± 0.45	1.5 ± 0.45	1.5 ± 0.44	.14	.14	.16
· Consultation after discharge	1.4 ± 0.58	1.4 ± 0.58	1.4 ± 0.59	1.3 ± 0.45	1.3 ± 0.45	1.3 ± 0.45	1.2 ± 0.53	1.2 ± 0.53	1.2 ± 0.54	.24	.24	.33
<b>Ferritin (μg/L) ‡</b>												
· Basal	200 ± 148.8	195 ± 148.5	193 ± 164.2	226 ± 218.3	233 ± 221.3	230 ± 211.4	166 ± 118.3	164 ± 119.9	169 ± 126.9	.69	.63	.70
· Hospital discharge	1281 ± 499.0	1281 ± 499.0	1312 ± 501.5	567 ± 488.8	567 ± 488.8	566 ± 495.3	519 ± 387.8	519 ± 387.8	485 ± 330.6	< .001	< .001	< .001

· Consultation after discharge	607 ± 395.1	611 ± 398.0	598 ± 382.9	240 ± 209.5	240 ± 209.5	236 ± 206.4	224 ± 216.2	224 ± 216.2	219 ± 221.7	< .001	< .001	< .001
--------------------------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	--------	--------	--------

\*P values for Hb levels in the intergroups comparison (p = 0.91) and time-repeated measures (p = 0.10). \*\*P values for absolute reticulocyte count in the intergroups comparison (p = 0.14) and time-repeated measures (p = 0.99). † P values for reticulocyte index in the intergroups comparison (p = 0.28) and time-repeated measures (p = 0.90).

‡ post hoc analysis for ferritin levels in group I patients at the time of hospital discharge compared with groups II (p < 0.001) and III (p < 0.001).

**Supplementary table 2.** Transfusion requirements of RBC

	GROUP I			GROUP II			GROUP III			P value		
	ITT (n=72)	ITTv (n=68)	PP (n=53)	ITT (n=73)	ITTv (n=69)	PP (n=54)	ITT (n=65)	ITTv (n=63)	PP (n=52)	ITT	ITTv	PP
<b>Transfusions: units [RBC] / patient</b>	2.25 ± 3.79	2.30 ± 3.83	1.17 ± 1.90	2.66 ± 4.81	2.77 ± 4.89	2.11 ± 4.56	2.18 ± 3.32	2.22 ± 3.34	1.69 ± 2.51	0.94	0.90	0.50
· Operating room	0.48 ± 1.46	0.49 ± 1.48	0.29 ± 0.83	0.33 ± 0.91	0.33 ± 0.93	0.22 ± 0.66	0.21 ± 0.61	0.22 ± 0.61	0.21 ± 0.61	0.70	0.72	0.92
· ICU	1.64 ± 3.33	1.67 ± 3.37	0.79 ± 1.67	2.13 ± 4.24	2.23 ± 4.32	1.72 ± 4.14	1.82 ± 3.17	1.85 ± 3.18	1.31 ± 2.36	0.60	0.49	0.22
<b>Transfusions: patients number (%)</b>	36 (50.0)	34 (50.0)	20 (37.7)	42 (57.5)	40 (58.0)	27 (50.0)	34 (52.3)	34 (54.0)	26 (50.0)	0.65	0.60	0.34
· Operating room	13 (18.3)	13 (19.4)	7 (13.5)	13 (10.1)	12 (17.6)	6 (11.1)	9 (14.1)	9 (14.3)	6 (11.5)	0.56	0.55	0.85
· ICU	30 (41.7)	28 (41.2)	14 (26.4)	36 (50.0)	35 (51.5)	23 (42.6)	29 (45.3)	29 (46.0)	21 (40.4)	0.36	0.30	0.50
<b>[RBC]: patients number (%)</b>												
0 Units	36 (50.0)	34 (50.0)	33 (62.3)	31 (42.5)	29 (42.0)	27 (50.0)	31 (47.7)	29 (46.0)	27 (51.9)	0.30	0.38	0.64
1 Unit	4 (5.6)	3 (4.4)	2 (3.8)	10 (13.7)	8 (11.6)	8 (14.8)	4 (6.2)	4 (6.3)	8 (15.3)			
2 Units	13 (18.1)	13 (19.1)	9 (17.0)	9 (12.3)	9 (13.0)	7 (13.0)	15 (23.1)	15 (23.8)	7 (13.5)			
3 Units	3 (4.2)	3 (4.4)	3 (5.7)	6 (8.2)	6 (8.7)	5 (9.3)	1 (1.4)	1 (1.6)	5 (9.6)			
More than 3 units	16 (22.2)	15 (22.1)	6 (11.3)	17 (23.3)	17 (24.6)	7 (13.0)	14 (21.5)	14 (22.2)	5 (9.6)			

**Supplementary table 3.** Days of postoperative hospital stay

	GROUP I			GROUP II			GROUP III			P value		
	ITT (n=72)	mITT (n=68)	PP (n=53)	ITT (n=73)	mITT (n=69)	PP (n=54)	ITT (n=65)	mITT (n=63)	PP (n=52)	ITT	mITT	PP
<b>Stay in ICU (days)</b>	6.8 ± 12.92	6.9 ± 13.10	3.8 ± 2.51	5.8 ± 6.56	5.9 ± 6.68	4.5 ± 4.33	6.1 ± 7.81	6.1 ± 7.86	5.4 ± 6.59	.73	.78	.97
<b>Stay in ward (days)</b>	10.2 ± 25.44	10.4 ± 25.79	6.1 ± 4.09	8.5 ± 9.81	8.6 ± 10.00	8.5 ± 9.00	15.9 ± 66.15	16.1 ± 66.66	7.7 ± 4.86	.29	.29	.03