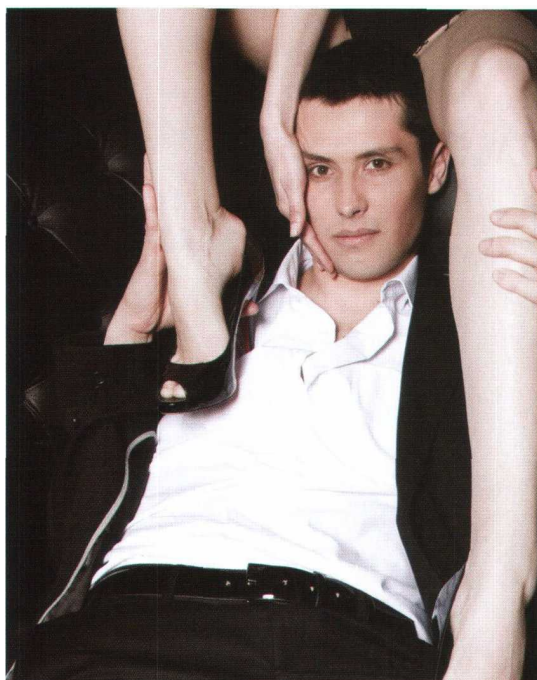


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Blood, *sex* and tears

If you engage in risky sex, eg, having multiple partners, going to prostitutes and having sex with the same gender, you must not donate blood. Your blood could be home to many types of infections which can put a recipient's life in danger. Donated blood is tested for transfusion-transmissible infections, eg:

- Hepatitis C (responsible for more than 90% of post-transfusion hepatitis)
- Hepatitis B.
- Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).
- Syphilis.
- Human T-lymphotropic viruses type I and type II (HTLV-1 and -2) – responsible for adult T-cell leukaemia, lymphoma and tropical spastic paraparesis (infection of the spinal cord).
- Cytomegalovirus (CMV) – a type of herpes virus that could be lethal to infants or cause permanent neurological damage.
- Malaria.
- Variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (mad cow disease).

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