

Headline	HIV blood donor not known yet		
MediaTitle	Sunday Star		
Date	16 Oct 2011	Color	Black/white
Section	Nation	Circulation	320,964
Page No	22	Readership	1,072,000
Language	English	ArticleSize	157 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 2,850
Frequency	Weekly	PR Value	RM 8,550



HIV blood donor not known yet

Mah: Six of eight who donated to housewife tested negative

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IPOH: The 56-year-old kidney patient who contracted HIV after a blood transfusion has received 18 pints of blood from eight donors.

Perak Health Committee chairman Datuk Dr Mah Hang Soon said housewife Vun Ah Thai had undergone several blood transfusions since January.

"Six out of the eight donors examined were tested negative for HIV.

"Another donor's blood test is pending and we are still looking for

the eighth donor," he told reporters after visiting Vun at the Raja Permaisuri Bainun Hospital here yesterday.

"We urge the last donor to come forward voluntarily," he said.

On Aug 15, Vun was tested positive for HIV at the Universiti Malaya Medical Centre where she was supposed to have a minor surgery.

Vun's family has demanded an explanation from the Teluk Intan Hospital as to how she had contracted HIV.

Dr Mah said the Health Department would decide on the next course of

action pending the test results.

"We will also meet various specialists to see how we can provide assistance to Vun," he said.

He added that Vun would continue to receive haemodialysis treatment at the Raja Permaisuri Bainun Hospital.

Dr Mah said donors were required to undergo a blood test and answer a set of questionnaires before they could donate blood.

"Hospital authorities have the right to reject any donor whose blood is found to be unsuitable for use," he said.