

**TATA MEDICAL CENTER**

14, Major Arterial Road (EW)  
New Town, Rajarhat  
Kolkata – 700 156  
Tel.: +91 33 6605 7579/8146;  
E Mail: [info@tmckolkata.com](mailto:info@tmckolkata.com) Website: [www.tmckolkata.com](http://www.tmckolkata.com)



To,

The Chairperson,  
The Institution Review Board,  
Tata Medical Center,  
14, MAR (EW), New Town, Rajarhat, Kolkata 700160

Dated: 06/05/2026

**Subject: Application for approval of DNB Thesis**

This is to inform you that I will be undertaking a study titled **"Prevalence of Occult Hepatitis B among Blood Donors in Eastern India."** as my DNB thesis for National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS). Occult Hepatitis B Infection (OBI), characterized by the presence of Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) DNA in the absence of detectable HBsAg, poses a significant challenge to blood safety. Despite routine serological screening, OBI remains an under-recognized source of transfusion-transmitted HBV infection. In regions like Eastern India, where HBV prevalence is intermediate to high, there is a critical need to strengthen screening protocols to enhance transfusion safety. So, the aim of the study is to improve the detection of Occult Hepatitis B and reduce the risk of transfusion-transmitted Hepatitis B virus infection and the objectives are to estimate the prevalence of Occult Hepatitis B infection among apheresis blood donors in Eastern India and to evaluate the effectiveness of a combined serological screening strategy employing HBsAg, anti-HBc, and anti-HBs levels for identifying OBI.

This will be a prospective observational study conducted among eligible apheresis blood donors visiting the blood centre of Tata Medical Center, Kolkata. Donor samples will be screened using standard serological assays (HBsAg, anti-HBc, anti-HBs), followed by molecular testing for HBV DNA to identify occult infections. Data will be analysed to determine prevalence and assess the utility of combined screening markers. The study aims to generate region-specific data on OBI prevalence and provide evidence for improving current donor screening strategies.

I assure that the study will be conducted in accordance with ethical standards, and necessary Institutional Ethics Committee approval will be obtained prior to initiation.

I kindly request you to review and grant approval for the above-mentioned thesis topic.

Thanking you,

Dr. Debapriya Kumar (Basu)  
Consultant  
Department of Transfusion Medicine  
Tata Medical Center, Kolkata

*Debapriya Kumar 6/5/26*

Signature of Principal Investigator  
Page 1 of 2

**Dr. Debapriya Kumar**  
Associate Consultant  
Department Of Transfusion Medicine  
TATA MEDICAL CENTER  
14, Mar (EW) New Town  
Kolkata-700160, India

**TATA MEDICAL CENTER**

14, Major Arterial Road (EW)

New Town, Rajarhat

Kolkata - 700 156

**Tel.:** +91 33 6605 7579/8146;

**E Mail:** [info@tmckolkata.com](mailto:info@tmckolkata.com) **Website:** [www.tmckolkata.com](http://www.tmckolkata.com)

(with date)



I, acknowledge the receipt of above mentioned document(s) on behalf of the Ethics Committee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Received

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of the Personnel