

Blood transfusions

There is often a shortage of blood for transfusions. This is further complicated by the fact that only group O individuals are universal donors. Researchers have long tried to make up for the shortage by using other blood groups after eliminating the specific sugars that determine the group. The cost problem has so far been insurmountable. However, a Canadian group is now using an enzyme of a microbiome bacterium to eliminate the sugar that determines group A (the most common one after O). This method, still in the research phase, looks very promising.

From Science: Type A blood converted to universal donor blood with help from bacterial enzymes <https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2019/06/type-blood-converted-universal-donor-blood-help-bacterial-enzymes>.