

COUNTRY	i. Are blood donations routinely screened for: - ALT - Anti-HBc?	ii. What is the yearly incidence of post-transfusion NANB hepatitis?	iii. What is the estimated yearly percentage of prevented NANB hepatitis?	iv. Do you consider that increased safety justifies the introduction of additional tests?
LUXEMBOURG	ALT = Yes Anti-HBc = No	Unknown	Unknown	-
MALTA				
NETHERLANDS	ALT = No Anti-HBc = No	Unknown but presumably low. A prospective study is underway.	-	No decision will be taken until the results of the study under (ii) are known (probably early 1987)
NORWAY	ALT = No Anti-HBc = No	The exact incidence is unknown but must be very low. Not a single verified case has been reported since 1980 when some cases were reported in haemophiliacs. They had received commercial factor VIII preparation produced in a foreign country during a short period of time when selfsufficiency was not ensured.	-	The incidence being very low there is little value in introducing these tests. The introduction seems therefore not justified at present.
PORTUGAL				
SPAIN				
SWEDEN				
SWITZERLAND	ALT = No Anti-HBc = No	Unknown	-	For the time being there is still a discussion about pros and cons of such screenings (personal preference for receiving blood with normal ALT values and negative for anti-HBc)
TURKEY				
UNITED KINGDOM	ALT = No Anti-HBc = No	3% (estimation)	Not applicable	There are serious doubts on this matter since the step was taken in the USA on an analysis of data between 1974 and 1979

v. What action is taking place to determine whether these tests should be performed?	vi. Do you consider that the tests will be introduced and on what time scale?	vii. Would you favour the examination of this question by the Council of Europe (eg Recommendation)?	viii. Would you favour an urgent procedure through the SP-HM Bureau?	ix. Other comments
ALT-testing, AST-testing and J-GT testing performed since October 1 1986 Anti-HBc: no studies undertaken	Yes, anti-HBc in the beginning of 1987 or mid 1987	Yes	Yes	
No action	The first impression is that the incidence is low and that the introduction of additional tests would be of little value.	Yes	No	As the incidence of NANB hepatitis may differ from region to region and country to country, each country should consider the need for introducing additional tests
In December 1986 the matter will be discussed at a meeting of regional blood bank directors.	At present it does not seem likely that they will be introduced.	Yes. Since the epidemiological situation concerning NANB hepatitis may differ considerably from one part of Europe to another, it may be difficult to unite around a joint policy.	No	
No special action except for the discussions in the various bodies of the Blood Transfusion Service SRC as mentioned above.	The test will probably be introduced; the time-scale is unknown	Yes	No	
A UK Working Party on Transfusion Associated Hepatitis met in November 1986, to consider the matter and advise the DHSS.	There are no pressures at the present time to introduce these tests, but the situation could change quickly. If the general consensus throughout Europe were to introduce these tests then this could influence the situation in the UK.	Yes	Yes	<p>1. There is a danger that political considerations may outweigh scientific findings in this matter and it is thought important to have up-to-date scientific data on both ALT and anti-HBc screening. Hopefully the Federal Republic of Germany could provide the former.</p> <p>2. It is estimated that the Council of Europe could make a major contribution to Blood Transfusion by providing a reasoned argument either for or against the introduction of these screening tests.</p>

COUNTRY	i. Are blood donations routinely screened for: - ALT - Anti-HBc ?	ii. What is the yearly incidence of post-transfusion NANB hepatitis?	iii. What is the estimated yearly percentage of prevented NANB hepatitis?	iv. Do you consider that increased safety justifies the introduction of additional tests?
<u>OBSERVERS</u>				
FINLAND	ALT = No Anti-HBc = No	Unknown (see other comments)	-	Under consideration
AUSTRALIA	ALT = No Anti-HBc = No	2.1% 3.75 cases/1000 units transfused. Data from Cossart et al, Lancet, 1, 1982, 208)	-	Possibly
CANADA Canadian Red Cross Society Blood Services = CRCBS	ALT = No Anti-HBc = No	Not known.	-	CRCBS is not convinced that the introduction of additional tests is justifiable on the basis of current uncertainty concerning the incidence of post transfusion NANB hepatitis in Canada.
USA	ALT = Yes Anti-HBc = No (Phase-in period for anti HBc)	5.7%	35%	-

v. What action is taking place to determine whether these tests should be performed?	vi. Do you consider that the tests will be introduced and on what time scale?	vii. Would you favour the examination of this question by the Council of Europe (eg Recommendation)?	viii. Would you favour an urgent procedure through the SP-HM Bureau?	ix. Other comments
A study is planned to determine incidence of post-transfusion NANB. Earlier studies not valid due to self-exclusion of AIDS risk groups.	Not known yet. Depends on v.	Yes	Yes	A prospective study conducted on 65 patients after open-heart surgery showed a 4.6% frequency of NANB hepatitis.
Matter is on the agenda of the National Blood Transfusion Committee's February 1987 meeting.	Possibly. Not before 1 July 1987	Yes	Yes	-
Experts from both Canada and the US have been consulted. For the present CRCBS will maintain a watching brief on the data being generated in the US by the implementation of the two surrogate tests. A Canadian study on the incidence of NANB hepatitis in transfused and non transfused patients is under consideration.	If the data sources outlined above indicate the introduction of surrogate testing is justifiable, it would be introduced nationwide. However, the data analysis and follow-up required could not be expected to allow this to occur before 1988 at the earliest.	Canada has observer status only.	Canada has observer status only.	-
Prospective studies are underway in several institutions	By spring 1987 blood donations will be tested nationally for both ALT and Anti-HBc.	Yes	Yes	-