

NATIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

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20th June 1991

Professor J.D. Cash,
National Medical and Scientific Director,
Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service,
Headquarters Medical Unit,
Livingstone House,
39 Cowgate,
EDINBURGH. EH1 1JR

Dear John,

ANTI-HCV

DONATION TESTING: CONFIRMATORY TESTS ETC.

Can I reply to your two letters on this subject.

1. I am hoping to have the results of the 2nd generation multi-centre trial available for 1st July. I have the initial screening results in detail from Glasgow. From his report at York it appears that John Barbara has the results available, but I need to have full details from him. There has been a delay at Newcastle but I understand that testing with Abbott has now started and samples are being received in North London for testing with Ortho.

I am not sure about the RIBA/PCR results. The original intention was that these would all be carried out by Richard Tedder, but I understand that Eddie Follett is testing the Glasgow samples.

I will put the report together as soon as I have the results. The only complication is that I am supposed to go on holiday on 3/4 July so I will be pressing everyone concerned not to miss the 1st July deadline.

HHG 5/104

2. The extended trial should be completed by mid-July. It was my intention to write up the results of this study as soon as I return from holiday and have it available for the end of July.
3. I do not know what the DH will do with these reports. ACVSB is not due to meet until the Autumn and the decision whether the 2nd generation tests are satisfactory for use may have to be made by Dr. Metters after consultation with his experts informally.
4. I spoke to Jean-Pierre on Friday and he will provide me with a protocol for a prospective/look-back study which I will circulate to members of the TTD Committee as soon as I receive it. I have also invited him to join the Committee, though I fear that the length of our meetings may increase when Richard and he differ on some matters!
5. With respect to donor management and plasma disposal I agree with your three categories and have drawn up something very similar for the NBTS Management Committee which met today and for the NBTS/CBLA Liaison Committee which meets on Friday 21st June. The only additional item I have is that the plasma from RIBA positive/indeterminate donations may be required for use as controls.

I enclose a copy of the paper I have presented to these two meetings. The Management Committee have agreed to the proposals. BPL wish to have a few days to consult and have agreed to respond before the end of next week.

I will fax you their response.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

GRO-C

H.H. GUNSON,
National Director