

Cutter



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Mrs. Marie Tatt
Miles Laboratories Ltd.
Stoke Court, Stoke Poges
Slough SL2 4LY, Buckinghamshire, U.K.

October 10, 1984
Ref: N-4.115

Dear Mrs. Tatt:

In response to the question raised by Eire concerning sites of plasmapheresis centers as to risk for AIDS, I offer the following:

Cutter does not use plasma collected at centers situated in the so-called high risk areas. The locations of centers used by Cutter are listed in the press release of February 23, 1983. There is no way to control movement of donors who are at risk of AIDS, including centers far removed as well as in proximity to the high risk areas. This is exemplified by the recent recall of American Red Cross Factor VIII from unpaid volunteers which had a donor with AIDS (copy of newspaper article enclosed) and the immunological abnormalities in Scottish hemophiliacs who received only Scottish Factor VIII from unpaid volunteer donors.

There is no test for AIDS. Cutter Biological is doing everything currently possible to eliminate potential AIDS donors from the donor pool. The steps are outlined in the press release and include questions and physical examination of donors. Cutter is the only company in the U.S. testing for antibody to Hepatitis B core antigen. As soon as a test for HTLV III is commercially available, Cutter plans to use it to screen donors.

Most manufacturers, U.S. and foreign, use plasma collected in the U.S. All are in a similar position as to AIDS risk.

If you need anything further, please contact me.

Sincerely yours,

GRO-C

JNA/jwk