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THE USE OF PORCINE FACTOR VIII. Peter B.A. Kernoff
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Highly purified polyelectrolyte-fractionated porcine factor VIII concentrate (PE porcine VIII; Hyate:C. Speywood) has been used to treat hemophiliacs with inhibitors since 1980. Especially in those patients with intermediate level inhibitors (5-50 BU to human factor VIII) and serious clinical problems, the product offers important advantages over other therapeutic modalities. In particular, and unlike PCC/APCC, treatment and dosage can be controlled using conventional coagulation tests. A disadvantage of PE porcine VIII is that anamnestic rises in inhibitor levels can occur in susceptible patients. Other adverse effects are rare. In suitably selected patients, the product has been used to provide hemostatic cover for major elective surgical procedures without complications. It has also been used to provide long term prophylaxis in home treatment programs. Because of the likelihood of freedom from contamination with human hepatitis and AIDS-related viruses, PE porcine VIII has been used to treat several non-inhibitor moderately-severe hemophiliacs who required major surgery. Although hemostatic control was achieved in all cases, at least one patient developed anti-porcine inhibitors. Application in this area seems limited. Further purification of the product, perhaps using monoclonal antibodies, would be technically possible but probably clinically and economically unjustifiable at the present time.

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