

Dr Penn

ROUTINE USE OF INTRAMUSCULAR IMMUNOGLOBULIN

This topic was discussed by the Advisory Group on Hepatitis as you know at their meeting on the 31 October. They agreed that there was no epidemiological evidence that intramuscular IgG transmitted the AIDS virus. Exposure of the virus to the Cohn fractionation was sufficient to inactivate it.

I think this view should be raised with the EAGA at their meeting on the 26 November particularly in view of doubts expressed about the use of intravenous immunoglobulin. Provided they are satisfied presumably we should seek JCVI's endorsement perhaps by correspondence. In the meantime I suggest you reply to Dr Nicholls as below

"Our advisers have agreed that there is no epidemiological evidence for the transmission of AIDS through the routine use of intramuscular immunoglobulin. The method of production is a thought to inactivate any live virus.

This endorses WHO's view published in August 1983 (copy of the WER enclosed).

We are considering issuing advice more generally on this point."

The feeling of the Advisory Group on Hepatitis was that information should be published in a CMO letter. Would it be possible to include it in the SAD letter. Will that be being issued after the next EAGA meeting? Presumably a paragraph could be included to say that there is no evidence of transmission of infection without invoking JCCI to pronounce.

5 November 1985

cc Dr Ower
Dr Sibellas

GRO-C

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enc.