

**BULLETIN 202**

**ARMOUR PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY LIMITED**

**To: Plasma Team**

**From: R B Christie**

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**CHRONIC HEPATITIS C VIRUS INFECTION - A DISEASE IN WAITING?**

**Czaja A J New Eng J Med 327 (27) 1949 - 1950 (1992)**

**LONG-TERM MORTALITY AFTER TRANSFUSION-ASSOCIATED NON-A, NON-B  
HEPATITIS**

**Seeff L B et al New Eng J Med 327 (27) 1906 - 1911 (1992)**

Professor Preston and others have shown that Chronic Hepatitis-C in haemophiliacs is associated with a high risk of progression to chronic active hepatitis cirrhosis and eventually liver carcinoma.

The above publications relate to a study in which 568 patients who had contracted Non A Non B hepatitis from blood transfusion were compared with a similar number of transfused non - infected patients with respect to mortality over an average follow up period of 18 years.

While the HCV infected group did exhibit a small but significant increase in mortality related to liver disease, there was no increase in mortality from all causes!

One can speculate whether surviving patients may yet die from liver disease and whether there may be a difference between these patients who were infected by a single infusion regimen and people with haemophilia who may have been repeatedly exposed to new challenges of virus or allo antigen.

It will be interesting to observe, now that substantially virus safe and allo antigen free pure products are available, whether the incidence of liver disease related deaths in people with haemophilia may be reduced.

GRO-C

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