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Dr Vaughan

POST-TRANSFUSION HEPATITIS

I attach copies of reports of icteric and anicteric hepatitis following the use of blood or blood products. I have divided these reports into the following categories:-

1. PROBABLE: HB<sub>s</sub> Ag was detected in a donor or the patient or both. Such a finding does not, of course, clinch the diagnosis but it seems likely, particularly if the antigen is found in both donor and recipient. There is one very long incubation period - 181 days

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2. POSSIBLE OR DOUBTFUL: In some of these the incubation period is very short.

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3. LORD MAYOR TRELOAR SCHOOL. There are 17 patients in this group. Almost all were mild cases and transfused on many occasions over long periods. Some were diagnosed on transaminase levels alone. In some instances, the incubation periods are not in the usually accepted range for hepatitis B. Hepatitis A may, therefore, have occurred. I have divided them into two groups on the basis of HB<sub>s</sub> Ag and anti-HB<sub>s</sub> tests on the patients.

- (i) HB<sub>s</sub> Ag and anti-HB<sub>s</sub> negative.

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apparently was given only Hemofil.

(ii) anti-HB<sub>s</sub> positive; HB<sub>s</sub> Ag negative

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4. Two cases associated with transfusion of Christmas Factor preparations 9D 506 and 9D 576. Widely different incubation periods. No other cases known to be associated with these batches.

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5. Hepatitis probably transmitted from wife of patient

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I shall be glad to try to answer any queries but, as is apparent from these reports, more detailed follow-up would be difficult and most time-consuming.

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