

Witness Name: Dr Gary Benson

Statement No.: WITN3082001

Exhibits: WITN3082002 - WITN3082014

Dated: 13 January 2020

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

EXHIBIT WITN3082004



Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

The Liver Unit
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Consultants

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Dr Ian Cadden, Consultant Hepatologist
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Tel:

GRO-C

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Date Typed: 17/10/2017
Clinic Date: 06/10/2017, (Appt. Type: RVF)

DR C: BENSON
HAEMOPHILIA CENTRE DIRECTOR
HAEMOPHILIA UNIT
BELFAST CITY HOSPITAL
LISBURN ROAD
BFI EAST
BT9 7AB

Dear GARY

RE: MR SEAMUS CHARLES CONWAY, D.O.B.: **GRO-C 1971**

GRO-C

Diagnosis:

1. Severe haemophilia A
2. Chronic hepatitis C genotype 3
3. Previous monotherapy with Interferon in 1990's by Haemophilia Unit
4. Previous excess alcohol intake

Comments: Thank you for referring Mr Conway for assessment regarding chronic hepatitis C. He said he does not think he has ever attended the Liver Unit for assessment regarding hepatitis C, his recall being Interferon monotherapy (injections three times a week) in the 1990's and not surprisingly this treatment was unsuccessful. The treatment was delivered by the Haemophilia Unit. In more recent years his health has been troubled by a few traumatic injuries affecting his right femur and left knee. He takes maintenance treatment with Factor VIII on Monday, Wednesday and Friday but otherwise says he has no medical problems.

His alcohol intake is currently approximately six to eight units per day (approximately 12-16 units per week) which he knows is heavier than would be recommended. He admits that his alcohol intake was heavier for three or four years whenever he had a few very significant social pressures.

Investigations: FBS, LFTs, U&E, hepatitis C PCR and confirmation of genotype, ultrasound of abdomen and Fibroscan study.

Management: I explained to Mr Conway that we now have some excellent tablet based therapies for hepatitis C with response rates in excess of 95%. In addition the side-effect profile of these new medications is minimal. He would be keen to pursue treatment and therefore I have added him to the waiting list for treatment today. The finer details of which treatment we offer him will depend on the blood results that come back and also the results of his ultrasound and Fibroscan study. If his ultrasound and Fibroscan study suggest evidence of significant liver damage or cirrhosis then this may modify the treatment choice and will also have an impact on his long-term follow-up.

Review: 12 months but I would expect him to get an appointment for his Fibroscan study in the next three or four months and hopefully he will come towards the top of the treatment waiting list in the next eight months or so.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

Dr Neil McDougall MD FRCP (Fcd)
Consultant Gastroenterologist/Hepatologist

CC: Dr W P Leeson, Foyleside Family Practice, Bridge Street Medical Centre, Bridge Street, County Derry, BT48 6LD

/MGB