

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE NEEDWorking Party to Advise on Plasma Supplies for Self-Sufficiency in Blood Products

Minutes of a meeting of the Working Party held in Hannibal House, on Friday, 18th December 1981, at 10.30 a.m.

PRESENT: Dr. H. H. Gunson (in the Chair)
Dr. A. E. Robinson
Dr. D. Walford
Dr. J. K. Smith
Mr. S. Godfrey

(1) Apologies for absence: None.

(2) Report on progress with respect to consultation with R.H.As.

Mr. Godfrey reported that a consultative document had been sent to Regional Medical Officers, Administrators and Treasurers giving a summary of the report of the Working Party. It was hoped that consultation would now occur with R.T.Ds. who were also to receive the report and answers to the questions whether R.H.As. support the principle of self-sufficiency in blood products and how each could progress to the target for plasma supplies would be received at the D.H.S.S. within the next few weeks.

(3) Review of recent trends in yields of Factor VIII

Dr. J. K. Smith tabled a paper (appended to these minutes). The views expressed in this paper were accepted by the Working Party who agreed that, at present, there was no reason to alter the estimated quantity of 435,000 Kg. plasma to achieve self-sufficiency in blood products, for the following reasons:

- 3.1 Demand of Factor VIII, assessed at 100 M. i.u. per year, was uncertain and other views contending that more than this have been made. The trends for use of Factor IX which has increased in usage more than forecast typifies the difficulty in assessing needs for these products.
- 3.2 The need to produce hepatitis-free products in the future may act adversely against yields of Factor VIII.
- 3.3 The quantity of Factor VIII in the form of highly purified and highly soluble product was largely speculative.
- 3.4 The high yields of Factor VIII from heparinised plasma should be regarded as experimental at present, although the Working Party will watch developments in this work with interest.
- 3.5 If there were significant improvements in Factor VIII yield, e.g. greater than 100% improvement on present yields, it would be necessary to consider carefully the requirement for albumin products since the yield is 70% at present and therefore could not be improved to the same degree. The best estimate for albumin

1495

14/221

usage is still the Council of Europe's at 200 Kg. per M population. Significant increases in Factor VIII yield could lead to the production of albumin as the most significant factor for plasma procurement.

(4) Methods of Plasmapheresis

4.1 Establishment of machine-pheresis unit in Yorkshire Region

Dr. Robinson reported that permission had now been given to establish this unit in the Centre in Bradford and it was hoped that plasmapheresis would commence in January 1982. The aim was to recruit a panel of 2880 donors, each bled 4 times per year, i.e. 11,520 donations of 0.5 l. The Centre should be fully operational by March 1982.

The Working Party asked Dr. Robinson to report later on progress.

4.2 Manual-pheresis

Dr. Gunson discussed the investigations which were to take place in Manchester and Edinburgh on the incorporation of an IBM cell processor into a manual plasmapheresis procedure. This would increase the cost of the plasma compared with manual procedures as previously defined but should be less than with the conventional machine procedure. The use of the IBM machine would increase the safety of the procedure by avoiding the need to take the donations away from the donors' bedside and thus reducing the potential danger of transfusing the wrong blood back to the donor.

4.3 Dr. Gunson described his recent visit to investigate the membrane pheresis procedure. It was hoped that this could be evaluated soon.

(5) Future Work of the Working Party

5.1 In view of the R.H.A. consultations in progress it was agreed that the Working Party would defer investigations into regional allocations.

5.2 The question of acquisition of plasma for the production of specific immunoglobulins was discussed. Dr. Gunson agreed to discuss with Dr. R. Lane the current situation and report back.

(6) Date and time of next meeting: To be arranged.

+ 4/222