USE OF FRESH FROZEN PLASMA (UNTREATED VERSUS TREATED) IN EUROPE

SUMMARY OF REPLIES RECEIVED BY NBA FROM EUROPEAN BLOOD ALLIANCE MEMBERS PLUS US AND CANADA (JULY 2002)

	Q: Is the use of untreated FFP allowed in your country?	**Q: What are you actually using?**
BELGIUM	No, with the exception of autologous FFP.	SD plasma
CANADA	Yes	100% standard FFP. SDFFP not licenced, though in clinical trial for TTP. No use of MBFFP.
DENMARK	Yes	Untreated (thawed) FFP - 54,000 units/year cf 330,000 red blood cell units (population 5.3 million) Great variation in use in different regions – 3.2 to 18.0 units per 1,000 inhabitants. (In 1999 costings provided to Danish Ministry of Health for use of MB plasma over a 40-year period - there has never been a formal decision from them.)
FINLAND	Yes. No treated products available.	2001 - 37,148 units/5.2 million population. 2002 – Usage up 10%.
FRANCE	No	50/50 inactivated SD plasma (pooled) and quarantined plasma (non-pooled). N.B. SD plasma pools are smaller than in most European countries - 600 ml apheresis plasma, with the pool limited to 100 donations.
GERMANY	Yes (Quarantined)	Quarantined FFP (6-month quarantine required). 1998 usage = 1432075 units FFP. Some SD FFP also used. 1998 figure = 271,080 units SD treated plasma manufactured (or imported). Regional policies in operation.
IRELAND	In effect no, as manufacture will cease.	About to switch to imported Octaplas of US origin (main reason being vCJD).
LUXEMBOURG	Yes (Not forbidden so	In 1996 the Luxembourg Red Cross changed

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	could be used.)	from untreated plasma (not quarantined) to SD plasma (treated under contract by EFS Bordeaux).
NETHERLANDS	No	Products allowed for use: ▪ Donor-retested plasma (i.e. donor tested negative twice with 6-month interval before release). ▪ SD treated pooled plasma (Octaplas). Although being phased out in view of vCJD risk analysis. ▪ MB treated plasma allowed but not used since PEI took it off the market in Germany. From 2003 will use only donor-retested plasma obtained by apheresis methods conforming to leucoreduction requirements.
NORWAY	No	Until January 2002 use of SD (Octaplas) mandatory. From 2002 quarantined FFP is allowed instead. (Alternative treatments (MB, S-59) being considered.) Most clinicians happy to use plasma offered by their blood bank but some hospitals (e.g. those performing transplants) prefer to use standardised preparations.
PORTUGAL	No	The use of virus inactivated (SD by Octapharma) or quarantined (6 months) FFP plasma has been mandatory since 1995. 60,000 units/year = 90% virus inactivated and 10% quarantined.
SWEDEN	Yes	To date use of treated FFP not regarded as cost-effective.
SWITZERLAND	No	SD and quarantined plasma are used.
USA	Yes	Mainly standard FFP. SDFFP licensed and was available from American Red Cross, but they have just ceased to supply. No use of MBFFP. S59 FFP in clinical trial.