



Salford Health Authority

Royal Manchester Children's Hospital

(University of Manchester School of Medicine)

Pendlebury, Near Manchester M27 1HA

Your Ref.

Telephone 061-794 4696 Ext.

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Our Ref.

DIKE/JAS

Please ask for:

Dr. Evans

24 AUG 85

Dear Mr & Mrs Bennett

We have been sending blood samples away from the children with haemophilia and similar diseases to see if they are at risk of AIDS. None of our patients has developed AIDS or has shown any signs of doing so, but all of us, both parents and staff, are anxious about the problem. The results are now coming through.

The blood tests on your child *Austair* show that he is positive for antibodies to HTLVIII - i.e. it means that he has been exposed to the AIDS virus some time in the past. It does not mean that he has AIDS, but there is a small chance that he may get it. We will have to wait quite a long time before we can tell if anything will develop. It is only a small number of patients who show this blood change who actually go on to develop AIDS. Of the first 16 patients we have tested, over 60% have given a positive result. Nearly all of them have been treated with the old factor VIII concentrates made in the USA.

I know that this is worrying news for you. If you would like to come to see us for a further chat about it, please let Sister Shaw know, and we will set some time aside to discuss things with you. But don't forget that the positive blood test only indicates past exposure to the virus: it does not mean that the disease is bound to appear.

Yours sincerely,

GRO-C

D I K EVANS,
Consultant Haematologist.