



The Haemophilia Society

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14 November 1984

TO ALL CENTRE DIRECTORS AND LOCAL GROUPS

You may have read or had your attention drawn to a recent series of small articles in some national daily newspaper along the general line that THIRTY THOUSAND UNSUSPECTING PEOPLE ARE DOOMED TO DIE OF THE KILLER DISEASE AIDS WITHIN FIVE YEARS - I have seen those articles in The Observer and the Scottish Daily Record.

I was therefore grateful to receive, from a member of the Society, a copy of the newspaper which carried the original story - THE PHILADELPHIA RECORDER. I have now had an opportunity to make enquires through my opposite number in the United States and it appears that several paragraphs were 'cut' from the article before publication. Therefore reference to ANTI-BODIES were omitted from the article.

Dr Peter levine, Medical Co-Director of the National Hemophilia Foundation in the States stated that the information, as edited, was grossly misleading and has caused a considerable amount of unnecessary alarm.

In the United States, as in the United Kingdom, the majority of haemophiliacs tested positive for HTLV-III. It is important therefore to remember that testing positive for HTLV-III establishes the presence of anti-bodies against the virus and does not suggest a diagnosis of AIDS.

I enclose a copy of the article from the Daily Record and hope that the above information will help to clarify the position.

Yours sincerely

DAILY RECORD 5th November 1984

GRO-C

David G Watters
Co-ordinator

Hidden toll of AIDS

THIRTY thousand unsuspecting people are doomed to die of the killer disease AIDS within five years.

That is the shock finding of an American Government Research team probe into the mystery ailment.

Researchers said yesterday that most of America's 14,000 haemophiliacs have been infected without knowing it from regular blood transfusions.

And the study forecasts that 10 per cent of the 210,000 infected homosexual men in America will be dead by 1990.