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DRW/GC

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During all the conversations which I have had with various clinicians in the past few weeks, the possibility of using porcine factor VIII:C for the treatment of non inhibitor patients has been a major topic. In particular, Peter Kernoff and Margaret Hilgartner (Cornell University, New York), are most interested and I expect that one or other of them, hopefully both, will use the product for such a patient within the next few weeks.

There are two prime indications:

1. Mild haemophiliacs whose only normal exposure to human factor VIII is as cover for surgical procedures. They can thus be given serious liver problems from a single exposure.
2. The growing body of patients who are refusing treatment with commercial factor VIII concentrates, because of the AIDS risk. Subject to availability, they can obviously be treated with single donor cryo for simple bleeds. However, when they have a major bleed or require surgery, there will inevitably be a ~~doses volume~~ problem.

All this places even greater importance on our programme for further purification of Hyate:C. I feel strongly that this should receive our major research effort during the next few months and would like to see a very tightly controlled programme, with material available for trial by the end of the summer. There is no doubt that other companies in our field will also be looking at animal factor VIII. I know that some of them have expertise already available and we could very soon have a major competitor.