

AA/MOH

16th January 1980

Mrs. GRO-A  
GRO-A

→ Haemophilia

Dear Mrs. GRO-A

Thank you very much for your letter to me about GRO-A and GRO-A and also for enclosing the article on home therapy by Dr. Peter Jones. I think you may have misread Dr. Jones' views on the cost of prophylaxis and I have underlined the section which will show you the approximate amount that he estimates for prophylaxis. GRO-A had 17 bleeds last term while GRO-A had 13. Almost all GRO-A's bleeds responded to a single infusion and he lost minimal time from school. If he had been on prophylaxis he would have had 45 transfusions during the term and would have lost rather more than the time he actually lost through bleeding. As far as GRO-A is concerned, he had one very bad bleed into his thigh which went on rather longer than it should have. I don't think this would have been prevented by prophylactic therapy.

I have, in fact, just started GRO-A on a two-week course of prophylaxis because he has just had another bleed into his left elbow which was the subject of nine bleeds last term. We only give prophylaxis in short courses here and only when a particular joint is being threatened. I am afraid we do not have the resources to give any of our 55 severe haemophiliac boys a long course of prophylaxis just because of bleeding frequency. You will realise that it all costs a lot of money and the National Health Service just doesn't have that sort of money at the moment. Please rest assured, however, that if any time I feel that your boys warrant a short course of prophylaxis they will certainly get it.

Please feel free to write to me again if you have any other problems.

Yours sincerely,

A. ARONSTAM  
Consultant Haematologist