

IF YOU HAVE PROBLEMS OR ANXIETIES CONCERNING AIDS PLEASE
DISCUSS THEM WITH YOUR CENTRE STAFF who should be only too
happy to discuss them with you.

HAEMOFACT is a leaflet produced by the Haemophilia Society.
They are issued from time to time on topics of interest
and concern to people with haemophilia.

For further details of Society membership please write to
us at 16 Trinity Street, London, SE1 1DE



The
Haemophilia
Society

HAEMOFACT

A.I.D.S.

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THIS FACTSHEET CONTAINS IMPORTANT INFORMATION

concerning

ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME

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The content of this issue of HAEMOFACT is based on the April 1985 AIDS Centre News, published by the World Hemophilia AIDS Centre (WHAC) in Los Angeles. The Director of WHAC is Dr Shelby Dietrich, MD.

All the evidence now points to the fact that virtually all Haemophilia patients who have received large-pool plasma products (eg concentrates) within the past five years have been exposed to the putative agent of AIDS, HTLV-III.

Individual interpretation of the results of the anti-body test on any given patient is NOT an indication of AIDS or any AIDS-related condition. At the moment the potential value is scientific and we would urge those who feel able to do so to continue to co-operate with their doctors in such tests.

IT CANNOT BE STRESSED ENOUGH that the results of antibody tests will not answer any of the pressing questions regarding an individuals infectivity to others, the future clinical course, or any other concurrent perplexing problem.

Until such time that further studies similar to the hepatitis B antigen test become available we recommend as follows:-

CONTINUE TO TREAT BLEEDING EPISODES, wherever possible with heat-treated material, be that imported or British.

LEAD A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE - get plenty of wholesome food, exercise, rest and sleep, avoid excesses of alcohol or other drugs which lower immunity; maintain a high standard of hygiene and do not share razors or toothbrushes - see your dentist regularly! Above all, talk about your fears and anxieties about the condition and share those thoughts with those closest to you: relax and reduce the stress.

INFUSION SAFE. V:- Wash hands with soap and water before infusion and practice proper infusion techniques as they have been taught to you. This is for **YOUR OWN BENEFIT.**

For the benefit of others, wash your hands with soap and water at the end of the infusion: clean the work area: **DO NOT INFUSE NEAR FOOD PREPARATION AREAS.** If blood or concentrate is spilled on the work area, wash the area with household liquid bleach.

Dispose of your equipment properly by placing used needles in a used needle box; syringes, bottles and gloves should be placed in a plastic bag and sealed for safe disposal at your Centre, or in the containers provided by your Centre.

If a member of your household has a needle-stick accident, encourage bleeding from the puncture site. Wash the affected area with soap and water and contact the Centre within 24 hours.

SAFE SEXUAL PRACTICES: All evidence to date indicates that AIDS may be transmitted by close sexual contact involving the exchange of body fluids, especially through breaks in the skin or mucous membranes. Therefore it is recommended that condoms are used, even if your partner is pregnant or male.

REMEMBER: No one knows the precise meaning of HTLV-III antibody tests: their value is scientific and for this reason we recommend that you continue to co-operate with your doctor. These tests may carry greater meaning in the future.