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AC/SEP/REJ

4 October 1994

Dear Andrej,

COMMENT ON ANTI HCV LOOK-BACK

This is a most difficult issue, but I have tried to imagine how, as a recipient, I would feel about being traced, counselled and perhaps treated with interferon/ribavirin (with a 20-25% chance of, probably not permanent, remission). My conclusion is that, especially as I would be unlikely to transmit the infection to others, I would prefer not to know. To know would give me anxiety yet, on the basis of present knowledge, I would be unlikely to benefit from treatment. Ignorance might be bliss in such circumstances.

It has already been pointed out that the lookback exercise, and the treatment, would be very expensive and I would like to see that money dedicated to a retro- /prospective study of natural history and prognosis in HCV infected donors. It is not for me to tell SNBTS how to spend its £50,000, but if there is money to spare this would seem to be of more value. I am not convinced of the scientific basis upon which infected donors are being managed at present, and getting this right ought to be a matter of concern to the Transfusion Services.

By the way, I am not the D Mortimer who appears at the head of the NBA lookback proposals. Nor, as Dr Mitchell pointed out, has Dr Ala's full committee (of which I am a member) considered the proposal.

Yours sincerely,

GRO-C

PHILIP P MORTIMER

- 5 OCT 1994