

Apologies: Prof R Tedder

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th August 1995 were agreed.

a) The protocol for testing of patients by Dr Barbara was confirmed to include both IMX and Murex, with overnight incubation. Samples will also be tested on PRISM.

- b) Correspondence between Professor Allain and Professor Tedder (see attached). It was confirmed that, as in the protocol, all donations with anti-HBc without anti-HBs, or with anti-HBs <0.1 iu/ml, were being discarded, irrespective of subsequent PCR data. The cut-off of 0.1 iu/ml is 10 times that specified by CDC and is in fact 0.13 iu/ml because of the choice of standard.

The difference in the percentage of anti-HBc plus low level HBs between Cambridge and South Thames was noted, along with a generally higher level of anti-HBc positivity in South Thames. This may reflect either on the different ethnic mix of the donor population, or the difference in test performance.

Action:

- 1) BC to obtain information on ethnic mix of South Thames donor population.
- 2) South Thames samples to be retested for anti-HBs in Cambridge, when other markers are performed.

Testing is now complete in Cambridge, and approximately half-way complete in South Thames who should finish in the second half of December.

4. Look-back Study

- a) The Ethics Committee at Addenbrooke's Hospital had just approved the protocol, subject to two or three minor modifications. Applications would now be prepared for the other hospitals in East Anglia.

Action: LW

The Ethics Committee at King's does not meet for a further month but South Thames hospital applications are less urgent. Dr Knowles is also obtaining forms for St. George's.

b) Research Nurse Appointments

- i) A good number of applications had been received for Cambridge and three for Tooting.

Action: LW/JPA to short list for Cambridge, with interviews to be held on 10.10.95. Tooting applications to be sent to Dr Hewitt for short listing.

- ii) John Chambers, EABC Accountant, was in contact with Abbott, Chicago, to set up an account for the nurse salaries and other expenses.
- iii) Dr Chris Moore at NLBC had offered to train the nurses in ~~donor~~ counselling, and had also made available a useful detailed lifestyle questionnaire. This was primarily designed for donors, but will also be helpful to exclude other risk factors for hepatitis B in patients.

5. Any Other Business

LW suggested that since many of the Study Group would also be involved in the PRISM evaluation, we could in future follow the HBC meeting with a PRISM review meeting for relevant personnel. Two hours should therefore be allowed for the next meeting.

6. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday, 1st November 1995, 09.00, East Anglian Blood Centre.

LW/cmh
27th September 1995

*Copy to: Dr John Barbara, NLBC
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Mr Chris Parkhouse (+3), Abbott Laboratories Limited
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