

Minutes of the
Anti-HBc Screening Project Study Group Meeting

Wednesday, 21 May 1997

at EABC

Present:	Professor Jean-Pierre Allain	Division of Transfusion Medicine
	Dr Pat Hewitt	National Blood Service, South Thames
	David Howell	National Blood Service, North London
	Chris Parkhouse	Abbott Laboratories Limited
	Una Whicheloe	National Blood Service, South Thames
	Dr Lorna Williamson	Division of Transfusion Medicine/EABC

Apologies: Dr John Barbara

Action

1.0 Minutes of Last Meeting, 26 February 1997

Accepted.

2.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes

2.1 Budget

No decision had been obtained yet on the £3,000 to be bid from the Zonal R&D fund.

PH to find out if this would be available.

2.2 Future Presentations

The abstract on the donor testing had gone to BBTS. The deadline for abstracts for AABB was now passed, but in any case there were insufficient data on the look-back aspect to write an abstract at this stage. It was agreed that, although the EABC look-back was complete, this should not appear on the BBTS poster, so that all the look-back data can be presented together at some future meeting.

2.3 Archive Samples

LW reported difficulty in obtaining all the archive samples from the three donors who had been associated with positive patients. So far only 4 out of 21 archive samples had been traced. The difficulty appeared to lie with the previous computer system. David Wenham and Robin Lambert are pursuing actively, but David may have to resort to paper records to find the remaining archives. It was agreed that these should not be sent to Richard Tedder until all possible samples had been retrieved.

LW to continue to pursue.

The South Thames archive samples had also not been obtained.

PH.

3.0 Update on EABC Results (see attached)

LW presented the final results on the East Anglia look-back. It would eventually be necessary to break these down by category of donor. This will easily be done from the database.

LW

4.0 Update on South Thames Results (see attached report from Una Whicheloe)

So far 124 patients had been tested. One hundred and forty one were still in the pipeline, and 246 donations still had to be processed. The following was agreed:

- i) Do not attempt to chase records from smaller hospitals, as this is not likely to be productive;
- ii) To stop further hospital searching as of now and concentrate on sampling those patients already identified. The final figure tested could be nearly 300 from South Thames.

Of 124 patients tested (23 category 3, 66 category 4, 35 category 5) there had so far been four positives. One was from a category 3 donor, and the patient was of Indian extraction. Two were from category 4 donors. One was of Indian extraction, but the other may possibly have had acute hepatitis post-operatively. Unfortunately, her GP thought it inappropriate to contact her. It was agreed that the status of other recipients from the same donor would be very important. The final patient had been transfused from a category 5 donor.

UW

It was agreed that the study should close finally at the end of September.

5.0 Presentation of Results

It was agreed that a start could be made to write up the results, the aim being to send a paper to the Lancet by the end of October.

JPA to start the donor testing section. LW to begin on the look-back.

6.0 Any Other Business

The need for additional resources to complete the study was discussed. The extra £3K from the Zonal R&D budget would provide a contract for Una Whicheloe until the end of June. It was proposed that she then work for a month in September to wrap up the final results. Additional resources would be needed for the summer months to keep up the momentum. There was the possibility that Charlotte Llewelyn may be able to help with this project over the summer. Some funding could possibly be obtained from the Clinical Budget, since both the Transfusion Microbiology Reference Laboratory and the Component Development Laboratory were not yet up and running.

PH to discuss with Sue Knowles and Charlotte Llewelyn.

7.0 Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, 24 September 1997, 09.30 at EABC (Large Committee Room)

*Copy to: Professor Jean-Pierre Allain, Division of Transfusion Medicine
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Dr Sue Knowles, National Blood Service, North Thames
Chris Parkhouse (x3), Abbott Laboratories Limited
Professor Richard Tedder, University College London Medical School
David Wenham, National Blood Service, North Thames
Una Whicheloe, National Blood Service, South Thames
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*LMW/cmh
27/05/97 15:00*