

**Facsimile Transmission**

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23rd April 1996

Our ref: LMW/cmh

Dr Angela Robinson  
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National Blood Authority  
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Dear Angela

**Anti-HBc Study**

I am sorry this reply is so late. I have been trying to get the information to be as up-to-date as possible. In reply to Jeremy Metter's letter, may I suggest you make the following points:

**Ethical and Logistic Issues**

The study has now been approved by over 75% of the Ethics Committees in East Anglia and South Thames. Many of these were visited personally, either by Dr Pat Hewitt or myself. Although there were some concerns regarding patient communication, the testing of low risk recipients was not seen as a bar to the study in any instance. Indeed, many Ethics Committees felt that we now had a duty of care to contact such patients and offer them testing.

Dr Metter raised the point that some GPs may have patients in both groups. Statistically this is not highly likely. However, in the case of the anti-HBc study we will not be requiring GPs to undertake any counselling; although the first contact to the patient will always be made with the GPs permission, and may be made by the GP, by his or her own preference. Follow-up on blood test results will be done by Blood Centre Medical Staff with referral to Hepatology as appropriate. However, it should be remembered that we anticipate that very few patients in the entire study will test positive for any markers of Hepatitis B, and amongst those we anticipate that the vast majority will have cleared the infection completely and will not require hospital follow-up.

Dr Angela Robinson

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23rd April 1994

I append a further copy of the final results on donor screening. You might also pass on the information that three donors have tested positive for HBA DNA (in Professor Richard Tedder's laboratory), although these results remain to be confirmed.

How you answer the point about Arie Zuckerman I leave to yourself.

If you need further information please let me know.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Dr Lorna Williamson  
Consultant in Transfusion Medicine  
University Lecturer in Transfusion Medicine

Attach.