

Minutes of
Anti-HBc Screening Project Study Group meeting
Wednesday, 1st November 1995

Present:	Andrew Perigo Dr John Barbara Professor J-P Allain Dr Lorna Williamson Ian Reeves Joanna Griffiths	Abbott Laboratories Limited North London Blood Centre Division of Transfusion Medicine EABC/Division of Transfusion Medicine East Anglian Blood Centre Research Nurse, EABC
Apologies:	Professor R Tedder Barbara Cant David Wenham	University College London Medical School South Thames Blood Centre East Anglian Blood Centre

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th September 1995 were accepted as an accurate record with two corrections:

Page 1, Results update, line 1	-	Should read ' <u>anti</u> -HBs'
Page 2, b (iii)	-	Delete the word 'donor' prior to counselling.

2. Matters Arising

- i) Repeat testing of Tooting samples showing anti-HBc plus low level anti-HBs had not yet been undertaken in Cambridge.

3. Results Update See attached.

It is anticipated that South Thames will finish donor testing in mid-December. The final numbers of isolated anti-HBc donors is probably going to be more than originally anticipated - between 55 and 60. This will also mean that control groups will have greater numbers of donors.

4. Donor Follow-up and Counselling - See correspondence from Dr Pat Hewitt.

It was agreed that donors with either isolated anti-HBc or HBc plus low level anti-HBs would not be notified until the results were confirmed on a re-bleed sample. Similarly, any donor in whom HBV DNA testing had proved positive will not be counselled until this report is confirmed on a separate sample. It was confirmed that donors who were HBV DNA negative would be notified of their result by letter, whereas donors with detectable HBV DNA would be counselled by one of the Transfusion Consultants. Dr Pat Hewitt had agreed to provide a draft letter for contacting such donors.

Action: PH

The issue of donors in whom HBV DNA was negative, but who were implicated in a transmission, was discussed. It was agreed that it would be sensible to wait until the look-back had been completed before any donors were contacted. In practical terms this would probably be the case anyway because of the need to await re-bleed samples. It was anticipated that there would be so few donors in the 'HBV DNA negative but associated with a transmission' category that they could be considered on a case by case basis.

5. Inclusion of Children

Comments from Dr Hewitt noted. Before we could agree to systematically exclude children from the study, we should try to establish what percentage of component usage is for children. It was agreed that we should try and obtain this information from two large hospitals in each Region.

Action: LW & PH

6. Ethics Committees

All applications to East Anglian Hospitals had been submitted. Addenbrooke's was approved, while Norwich would be considered on 6th November.

Information received after meeting from Papworth - Initial consideration had raised some issues over how patients should be contacted i.e. from Transfusion Centre or from their own GP/Consultant. LW to attend Ethics Committee Meeting on 21st November to discuss.

7. Research Nurses

Mrs Joanna Griffiths had now taken up her post at Cambridge and the vacancy at Tooting had been filled. John Barbara agreed that he and Chris Moore could provide an information session on HBV and counselling for the two nurses, to be arranged once both are in post.

Action: LW to arrange with JB's secretary

8. Matching of Donors

It was noted that Tooting appeared to have an excess over Cambridge of donors with anti-HBc plus low anti-HBs. It was agreed that rather than perform look-back on all such donors, the numbers would be matched with anti-HBc only donors, attempting to match for age, sex and number of donations, as previously agreed.

9. Anti-HBc Only Donors from Previous Cambridge Study

There were seven such donors who were not providing products for clinical use, but who had not actively been removed from the panel as it had been anticipated that routine anti-HBc screening would be implemented. It was agreed that a look-back on their recipients was not to be performed, but that they should receive HBV DNA investigation before being contacted.

It was noted that costings had not yet been obtained for HBV DNA testing.

Action: Professor Tedder

10. Any Other Business

- i) LW reported on correspondence between Angela Robinson and Jeremy Metters on the study. John Barbara and Professor Allain are shortly to meet with Professor Zuckerman to discuss. A draft letter for Angela Robinson to reply to Jeremy Metters has been provided.
- ii) John Barbara's paper on anti-HBc testing submitted to SACTTI was discussed. This provided affirmation that the numbers of patients planned for this study were appropriate. JB also asked whether plans to include anti-HBc testing in patients in the HCV look-back had gone ahead. LW believed that this was still planned, and that laboratories performing patient testing had agreed to undertake this.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday, 20th December 1995, 09.30, East Anglian Blood Centre. Please note later start time to enable non-Cambridge staff to attend on time. The next meeting will again be followed by an update on the PRISM Study.

LW/cmh

2nd November 1995

Copy to: Dr John Barbara, NLBC

Ms Barbara Cant, STBC

Dr Sue Knowles, NLBC

Mr Chris Parkhouse (+3), Abbott Laboratories Limited

Prof R S Tedder, University College & Middlesex School of Medicine

Dr Patricia Hewitt, NLBC

Professor J-P Allain, Dr Lorna Williamson, Cambridge University Division of Transfusion Medicine

Mr David Wenham, Mr Ian Reeves, Joanna Griffiths, East Anglian Blood Centre