

Minutes of the

Anti-HBc Screening Project Study Group Meeting

Wednesday, 24 September 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
Una Whicheloe National Blood Service, South Thames
Dr Lorna Williamson Division of Transfusion Medicine/EABC

Apologies: Dr John Barbara, Prof Richard Tedder, Chris Parkhouse

Action

1.0 Minutes of Last Meeting, 21 May 1997

Accepted as accurate.

2.0 Update on South Thames Results (see attached)

The possibility of obtaining any further follow-up on the 104 patients who had reached the deadline was discussed. These included 11 patients at King's College Hospital, where tracing medical records was extremely difficult. In many other cases the general practitioners had been written to at least twice. It was not clear that further attempts to follow up these patients would be likely to yield much in the way of useful results.

The case histories of 7 reactive recipients were reviewed in detail. One patient with an Indian surname received red cells from a donor in the control category. Of recipients from Category 4 or 5 donors, three are from HBV endemic parts of the world (Vietnam, Nigeria and the Indian sub-Continent). Of the other three, one patient (GRO-A) has a high probability of being a transmission, having developed jaundice six months after the implicated transfusion. She was found to be HBsAg positive at that time, but this was attributed to her work as a nurse.

Further other blood samples are being tested at Dulwich PHLS.

No other recipients from this donor have been tested.

The last two patients (GRO-A) are possible transmissions, but the evidence is less strong at present. Both need archive samples from donors to be tested if possible.

PH to follow up.

J-PA/PH to ask
Donation Testing
at South Thames
urgently if earlier
archives from
this donor are
available.

PH to contact
Chris Jones at
South Thames re
access to
archives.

3.0 Manuscript

J-PA tabled a draft results section for the donor screening. The HBV DNA results were reviewed. The two donors who may be implicated in transmissions had been DNA negative. It was puzzling that two other samples known to be HBsAg positive were also apparently HBV DNA negative.

LW to check whether further samples from these two donors are available.

The question of re-testing for HBV DNA was discussed. It would be essential to test at least the following:

- 39 donors whose anti-HBc was concordant by Abbott and Ortho.
- As many samples as possible from the three suspect donors (to recipients RP, RJ and perhaps JD).
- The two HBsAg positive samples.

JPA to investigate

Note added after meeting - these samples to be retested by Dr Nico Lelie, CLB, Amsterdam for a total cost of £1000.

5.0 Future Meeting

No date was set for a future meeting, but a draft of the manuscript would be circulated.

Copy to: *Professor Jean-Pierre Allain, Division of Transfusion Medicine*
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LMW/cmh
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