

# The London Hospital (Whitechapel)

HAEMOPHILIA CENTRE



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Prof. G.C. Jenkins - Head of Haematology Department.

Dr. B.T. Colvin - Director of Haemophilia Centre.

Our Ref: BTC/DK

8th October 1986

Mr. D.G. Watters,  
General Secretary,  
The Haemophilia Society,  
123 Westminster Bridge Road,  
LONDON SE1 7HR

Dear David,

Re: Mr. Kossoff's Letter (ref: PK.TR)  
Your Letter of 3rd October 1986 (Ref: DGW/HM)

Thank you for your recent correspondence.

I think the best way to explain and support my views on the relative dangers of commercial and NHS concentrate with respect to hepatitis is to send copies of three papers which are enclosed. Whilst the language is rather technical I think the summaries are fairly straightforward. If you require any clarification please do not hesitate to contact me again.

One aspect of Dr. Peter Kernoff's paper that you might like to consider is his statement that the "hepatitis following commercial products was more severe, and of shorter incubation" but I am afraid that this is rather a small point to develop.

With regard to the statement attributed to me on page 2 of Mr. Kossoff's letter I accept that it is accurate in the context of free conversation. If I was to be asked to defend this view in Court I would prefer to be quoted as follows:

"Dr. Colvin said that in 1976 it was widely believed that commercial factor VIII concentrate was more unsafe with respect to hepatitis than British concentrate although later studies showed this was not necessarily the case.

It was also realised that while importation of factor VIII concentrate continued the potential for the introduction of even more serious infections into the UK haemophilia population existed and that a disaster might occur. That fear was eventually realised when Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection, which is the cause of AIDS, was transmitted to patients with haemophilia."

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I hope this clarifies my position without diluting the force of what I am prepared to say.

~~Yours sincerely,~~ N

GRO-C

~~B.T. Colvin MRCP MRCPath~~  
~~Director~~

c.c. Mr. P. Kossoff,  
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