

OXFORDSHIRE HEALTH AUTHORITY
OXFORD HAEMOPHILIA CENTRE

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5th December, 1984

CRR/MB

Dear

re: Haemophilia/AIDS

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the type of factor VIII he is receiving and the problem of AIDS. I have looked back over our records and find that he received NHS factor VIII until June, 1980 when he was given American concentrate for the first time. Thereafter he received NHS concentrate again until March, 1981 when he was changed from NHS to American concentrate and has continued to receive American concentrate since then. The NHS factor VIII concentrate is in very short supply and we have always, as far as possible, reserved it for young children and adolescents. Ultimately most severely affected patients are changed from NHS to commercial factor VIII especially those who use larger amounts of factor VIII.

With regard to your point about factor risk policy, I don't know which routine of treatment would be safer; a mixture of NHS and commercial factor VIII or nothing but NHS treated until the age of 18-20 and thereafter mainly commercial material. I am sure he has so far not received as much commercial concentrate as he would have done had he been receiving equal amounts of NHS and commercial concentrate since 1972 (when commercial concentrate first came in).

With regard to the products coming in from the States all of the companies are now beginning to heat their concentrates and they are all applying or have applied for Licences to sell this new product. The NHS laboratories are also starting to heat their concentrates and I think that within the next 3-6 months only heated material will be available. I think it is only fair to say that the evidence for heat destroying the AIDS virus is very preliminary and has been obtained from test tube experiments. As far as I am aware the results of injecting heated factor in animals or human beings are not available yet. Those latter experiments are very important and are the only way of proving that heated factor are safe vis-a-vis AIDS. There is also the question of the safety of the heated material from other points of view: will it still be as effective in stopping bleeding and has it been damaged in any way which might lead to undesirable reactions. Only time and use in patient will answer these questions.

Yours sincerely,

C.R. Rizza
Consultant Physician