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Royal Free Hospital

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20 November 1996

Dr J Riddell

GRO-C

Dear Dr Riddell

Nicholas HIRSCH - 24 04 76

GRO-C

I saw Nicholas Hirsch on 19th November for a review of his haemophilia, although the predominant area of discussion was around hepatitis C infection. He is 20 and he has severe haemophilia A. He is not infected with HIV but, he is infected with type I hepatitis C. He is a student of music at Brunel College and he shares a flat in Twickenham with his brother and a girlfriend - he is in his second year.

He treats his haemophilia on demand and uses approximately 1500 units, which is appropriate for his weight. In general he is well. There are no specific problems. He looks after himself, cooking for himself etc and it is significant that he has no alcohol intake. He has antibody to hepatitis A and B and he is infected with type I hepatitis C. We do not know precisely when he was infected but, it is likely to be approaching 20 years ago. Although he is still studying at College, he says he is not really working. The person who was leading the course has left and the present teacher is not so good. It is not clear whether he will stay in this course of study, or whether he will quit.

He smokes marijuana regularly and he smokes about 10 cigarettes a day. He is not really motivated to stop. He has marginally abnormal transaminases. I have explained to him that we are now treating with combination therapy, using interferon and ribavirin. It does have quite a lot of side-effects and there would need to be commitment from him if he wanted to have this treatment. I have suggested he sees Dr Bhagani and he will see him next week to discuss the pros and cons of this. From the point of view of his hepatitis, he does of course have a number of good features, in that he is young and he is uninfected with HIV and he does not drink alcohol.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

Christine A Lee

cc Dr Sanjay Bhagani

INTERNATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF HAEMOPHILIA