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Royal Free Hospital

HAEMOPHILIA CENTRE & HAEMOSTASIS UNIT

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GRO-C

CAL/ALB/223262

11th October 1999

Dr J Riddell

GRO-C

Dear Dr Riddell

Nicholas Hirsch; D.O.B. 24/4/76

GRO-C

I saw Nicholas with his parents today, 5th October. They had come to discuss the possibility of Nicholas having recombinant factor VIII. Apparently his mother has had correspondence with Frank Dobson and Baroness Hayman, her MP, and recently has spoken to the Haemophilia Society, who recommended that they come and speak to their Centre director. Nicholas' concern is that he would like to have any treatment, provided it was safer. He also was freaked out that he had received concentrate that had been derived from a new variant CJD donor and was told in November 1997.

I explained to him and his parents that it is the view of myself together with my colleagues in the UKHCDO that recombinant factor VIII is the treatment of choice; although it has been recognised that prioritisation may be necessary for economic reasons. I have therefore agreed that I would be more than happy to write a letter of support to the health authority once Mrs Hirsch provides me with the appropriate person. I have explained that in view of the situation in Wales and Scotland, it is conceivable that the government might move on this issue, but at the present time they have given quite direct recommendations to health authorities that people who receive recombinant factor VIII should either start it under the age of 16 for previously untreated patients, or women in child bearing age. I therefore would not be optimistic that the health authority agree to pay, but I will certainly write and I will

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2.  
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send you a copy of that letter when it is written.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

*CP* Christine Lee  
Professor of Haemophilia