



Pond Street
Hampstead
London NW3 2QG

The Royal Free Hospital

071-794 0500

Ext. 3806/4140

HAEMOPHILIA CENTRE AND HAEMOSTASIS UNIT

Dr P.B.A KERNOFF, MD FRCP MRCPPath
Director

Dr CHRISTINE A LEE, MD FRCP MRCPPath
Consultant Haematologist

1-11-90

Dear Mr *Thomas Stewart (Jnr)*

I am writing to tell you about the new anti-HCV test.

Many haemophiliacs who have been treated in the past with unheated clotting factor concentrates or other blood products have been exposed to the non-A non-B hepatitis (NANBH) virus, so called because it is unrelated to hepatitis A and unrelated to hepatitis B. One agent responsible for NANBH has now been identified by recombinant gene technology as the hepatitis C virus (HCV). We have a new test available which measures antibody to HCV (anti-HCV) and shows past infection.

Your anti-HCV was positive on 19.5.89

Some people who have been exposed to NANBH (HCV) in the past may after many years go on to develop chronic hepatitis, but we cannot determine who will progress in this way. Although there are some trials of treatment for such liver disease, no-one is using treatment on a regular basis in haemophiliacs at the present time. Although it is possible that NANBH (HCV) can be spread sexually, information in this area is at present very limited.

We should be very pleased to further discuss with you any of these issues either at your next review or sooner if you would like to make an appointment.

Yours sincerely,

GRO-C

Dr Christine A Lee
Consultant Haematologist