

WITN 2223008

ANONYMOUS

ABERDEEN ROYAL INFIRMARY

000781

Our reference

GRO-B

Telephone No. 881818 Ward 47

Your reference

FORESTERHILL

ABERDEEN

AB9 228

Re: GRO-B

GRO-B

4th June 1987

Dear Dr. GRO-B

Re: GRO-B (GRO-B 67)  
GRO-B

This is to record the conversation I had with GRO-B and his girlfriend, GRO-B today. We had a prolonged and wide ranging discussion of the implications of HIV and haemophilia. We discussed the following areas:-

1. The fact that all severe haemophilic patients in Scotland should be regarded as having met the HIV virus at some stage in the past regardless of any blood test. Current blood tests detect only antibody to HIV and cannot detect the virus itself. The exposure of haemophilic patients to HIV has not necessarily been the result of imported Factor VIII and infact GRO-B has never had anything other than Scottish Factor VIII.
2. The result of 1, is that it is sensible to regard all severe haemophilic patients as potentially infective and of course the commonest means of transmission of the virus is by sexual activity. The most effective means of preventing such transmission is the meticulous and invariable use of sheath.
3. As a result of 1 and 2, it is clearly sensible for the partners of haemophilic men to plan not to conceive in the immediate future. This may seem a very severe stricture and infact the incidence of transmission of the virus to the partners of haemophilic patients or to fetuses they conceive, is low but it is appreciable and cannot be disregarded until the situation becomes clearer.
4. When asked about GRO-B's future I gave what had to be a guarded reply saying that we could not guarantee that he would not develop AIDS in the future although he appears in very good health at present. We would of course be keeping a close eye on his well-being.

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5. On the morning of our interview the announcement from Glasgow about the vaccine to HIV was broadcast on the radio. I indicated to them that this was a hopeful development but of course would take several years to be worked out and its value to be assessed.

This seemed more than enough for them to digest at their first interview. I have asked them to go away and think about the situation and to come back and see me at any time they wish in the near future so that misconceptions about the above, which they will undoubtedly have, can be clarified and new questions which arise in their minds can be answered. GRO-B is a nurse training at the GRO-B Hospital so she will have no difficulty in coming to see me. GRO-B will find it a little more difficult but I have made it clear that I would be happy to see them both at a weekend if they cannot come during the week.

Yours sincerely,

GRO-C

BRUCE BENNETT  
CONSULTANT PHYSICIAN

GRO-B

did not ask the result of

GRO-B

HIV antibody test. I

did not volunteer it as I thought

she had enough to cope with. As

you'll see - (1) above I've said that all haemophilic patients should probably be taking similar precautions.

Of course when she asks I will tell her the result