H Smithies

BLOOD PRODUCTS LABORATORY

National Blood Transfusion Service

Director:
R.S. LANE, MD MRCP MRCPath.

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Our Ref : PLH85/160

18th July, 1985

Dr.F.M.Roberts,
National Blood Transfusion Service,
Regional Transfusion Centre,
West Derby Street,
Mount Vernon,
Liverpool,
L7 8TW

Dear Dr.Roberts,

Factor VIII Batches HLA and HLB3046 :
Donor with AIDS Symptoms and Serology

I have received a report from the Transfusion Centre which supplied the plasma used in the manufacture of this batch confirming that one of the donors contributing plasma to the pool has developed symptoms consistent with AIDS infection and is seropositive for HTLV-III Ab at low titre.

The plasma was prepared on 5th November, 1982 and fractionated at BPL in March, 1983. You received 170 vials HLB3046 as part of your allocation for June, 1983. I think we must assume possible risk of product infectivity since the incubation period for AIDS, based on projection of the epidemic curve at CDC (Atlanta), is from 9 months to 6 years.

Obviously product recall is not relevant - the product date-expired in April, 1984 and was almost certainly used long before that. However, I would be grateful if you would advise me of the distribution of the product within your region. I would also be grateful if you would contact the directors of haemophilia centres to whom product was supplied, advising them of the need for follow-up of patients treated with this batch.

Dr.John Craske (PHLS, Manchester, advisor to the Haemophilia Centre Directors on hepatitis and AIDS) will be able to give advice on follow-up and should, in any case, be provided with the names of all patients treated with the batch. In the event that any material from this batch was not used clinically, but diverted to some other purpose, it would be important to identify the vials in question for inventory purposes and, if appropriate, recover the vials for return to BPL.

I apologise for having to involve you in what will no doubt be a considerable amount of work.

Yours sincerely,

GRO-C

T.J.SNAPE
Head of Quality Control
jg