

5/9/83

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Dr R Oliver

AIDS : AMERICAN FACTOR VIII

Dr Spence Galbraith telephoned from CDSC this morning with the following information:-

The male patient (aged 23 years) in Cardiff who is a known haemophiliac now appears to have the right symptoms and signs for a diagnosis of AIDS. (He has an opportunistic infection - oesophageal candidiasis - and also epididymo-orchitis of unknown aetiology). He has been ill for a month and has been treated with American F VIII. We have no further news of the haemophiliac patient in London (as mentioned in the press on Sunday 1 May 1983).

Dr Galbraith last night received information from Spain that three haemophiliac patients there are thought to have AIDS and have also been treated with American F VIII. (Dr Galbraith thinks that the product is irradiated but we are all aware that this would not eliminate a transmissible agent, say of the slow virus type.)

Dr Galbraith asks that the Department should consider the matter as a priority - and asks that any top level meeting should include CDSC (who are collecting all data on AIDS cases for us). I assured him we would liaise with CDSC and also told him that we had already met Dr Gunson (C.A. in blood transfusion) and he was in touch with Regional Transfusion Directors - and that alternative supplies of F VIII are being considered but are not going to be easy to come by - the matter is under active consideration. (Swiss supplies are considered doubtful - is Germany a possibility)?

Dr Walford is in Newcastle today and I understand you are in a meeting - otherwise Dr Galbraith would have spoken to you himself.

GRO-C

MARY SIBELLAS
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6 May 1983

cc Dr Harris o/r
Dr Field o/r
Dr Walford
Dr Galbraith (CDSC)
Dr J Barnes
Mr J Parker HS1 ✓
Mr Fanning
Miss Purvis