

From: Dr D A Kennedy PD/STDPG1C

To: Dr A Rejman MEDSEB
Copy: Mr C Bray PD/STDPG1C
Miss M Duncan PD/STD
Date: 24 August 1989

ORTHO TEST FOR HEPATITIS C: GUARDIAN ARTICLE OF TODAY

1. We spoke: I can confirm that nobody from this group has ever been in touch with the Guardian about the Ortho test and we certainly did not meet Ortho yesterday. We have though heard from Ortho about the test and though they have been made aware that it has been/is being evaluated in the BTS and PHLS. The question of DH evaluation of the test was raised with MEDSEB some time ago.
2. If we accept the figures in the Guardian, routine use of the Ortho test in screening blood donations adds up to a £6 million per annum business. Furthermore, Ortho at present would appear to be in a monopoly supply situation. I suggest to you that if a decision is made to use the Ortho test routinely, PD's Commercial Policy Division should be asked to give advice on central procurement in the interests of cost-containment. Accordingly, through Miss Duncan, I will alert CPD to a possible call on its services.
3. I am pleased to hear that another test (Fujiribo) is on the horizon. I would recommend a comparative evaluation against the Ortho test as soon as one can be arranged. PG1C will be happy to work with MEDSEB on this, as in the case of anti-HIV1 tests.
4. Please copy this to colleagues within MEDESEB as appropriate.

GRO-C

D A Kennedy

- (1) Copy please to Miss McGinly for information
- (2) await Dr Rejman's return

Copies: Dr Metters
J. Canavan

29 AUG 1989

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