

SMALLER HAEMOPHILIA CENTRES PRESENTATION
HILLINGDON HOSPITAL, UXBRIDGE

Directors and staffing

1. The Director of the Haemophilia Centre at Hillingdon Hospital during 1970s and 1980s was Dr Reginald Paul Britt, Consultant Haematologist. Other personnel at Hillingdon Hospital included:
 - a. Dr R Warwick, who represented Dr Britt at the UKHCDO meeting on 13 November 1978;¹
 - b. Dr Najam, who represented Dr Britt at the UKHCDO meeting on 21 November 1979;²
 - c. Dr Elizabeth (Liz) Miller, Senior Registrar in Haematology, who represented Dr Britt at the UKHCDO meeting on 9 October 1981;³
 - d. Dr Gerry Robbins, Former Senior Registrar in Haematology, who represented Dr Britt at the UKHCDO meeting on 17 October 1983;⁴
 - e. Dr R M I Jan Mohamed, Consultant Haematologist and Director of the Centre in the 1990s.⁵

Status of Haemophilia Centre, Relationship with other Haemophilia Centres and Regional Blood Transfusion Centre

2. The Haemophilia Centre at Hillingdon Hospital was an Associate Centre located in Pield Heath Road, Hillingdon, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 3NN. It was proposed as an

¹ HSOC0010549

² CBLA0001028

³ CBLA0001464

⁴ PRSE0004440

⁵ HCDO0000013_269

Associate Centre in the North West Thames Region (05) on 15 November 1976.⁶ It was designated as a new Associate Centre late in 1976.⁷

3. At that time, Professor Ingram and Dr Dormandy were asked to be jointly responsible for the South-East Haemophilia Supraregion.⁸ Dr Dormandy of the Royal Free Hospital and Professor Ingram of St Thomas' Hospital Haemophilia Reference Centres decided to split the Supraregion along the Thames. As part of the North West Thames Region (05), Hillingdon fell under the responsibility of Dr Dormandy at the Royal Free Hospital.⁹
4. From 1976, NHS factor VIII concentrate was distributed through the Regional Blood Transfusion Centres. With some slight adjustments, it was said that this corresponded to the supply areas of the appropriate Blood Transfusion Centres at Brentwood, Edgware and Cambridge.¹⁰ The relevant Regional Blood Transfusion Service Centre for Hillingdon Hospital from December 1976 was the North London Blood Transfusion Centre, Edgware.¹¹
5. The material was divided among the Regional Transfusion Centres proportionately to the number of different haemophiliacs treated in the Regions in 1974.¹² As a new Associate Centre, it appears that no NHS factor VIII concentrate was initially allocated to Hillingdon Hospital in 1976.¹³
6. Dr Britt on behalf of Hillingdon Hospital attended a meeting of Directors of Haemophilia/Associate Haemophilia Centres (Regions 04, 05 and 06) and Blood

⁶ CBLA0002956_005

⁷ OXUH0000863_002

⁸ CBLA0000506. In 1976, the North-West Thames Region (05) included Westminster, St Mary's, Middlesex, Hammersmith, Lister (Stevenage), Luton & Dunstable, Bedford, Edgware, Hillingdon and Northwick Park (Harrow).

⁹ CBLA0000506. See also: CBLA0000533 minutes of meeting on 15 December 1976 where it is recorded that *"Professor Ingram and Dr Dormandy, who were the reference Centre Directors for regions 04-08, had taken the Thames as a dividing line so that Professor Ingram would be mainly concerned with regions south of the Thames (07/08) and Dr Dormandy with regions north of the Thames (04, 05 and 06)."*

¹⁰ CBLA0000506

¹¹ CBLA0000506

¹² CBLA0000506

¹³ CBLA0000510. In 1976, NHS factor VIII concentrate was allocated to the North West Thames Region as follows: GOSH 62 bottles; Hammersmith 55 bottles; Middlesex 22 bottles; St Mary's 15 bottles; and Westminster 6 bottles.

Transfusion Centres on 15 December 1976 at which the regional distribution of NHS factor VIII concentrate was discussed.¹⁴ it was noted that the distribution area of the Regional Blood Transfusion Centre at Edgware did not coincide with Region 05 and that the NHS factor VIII supply had been adjusted to account for this.¹⁵ In the North-West Thames Region (05), there were 5 Haemophilia Centres, 6 Associate Centres and one more proposed Associate Centre. Dr Cleghorn (North London BTC, Edgware) confirmed that he was prepared to handle and distribute NHS/commercial concentrate and to hold a reserve for the North-West Thames Region.

7. It is recorded that Dr Britt was absent from a further meeting of Directors of Haemophilia/Associate Haemophilia Centres (Regions 04, 05 and 06) and Blood Transfusion Centres for the North West Thames Region on 23 September 1977.¹⁶ It also does not appear that Dr Britt attended a further meeting of Directors of Haemophilia Centres/Associate Haemophilia Centres (Regions 04, 05 and 06) and Blood Transfusion Centres on 1 September 1978.¹⁷

Number of patients registered and treated

8. By letter dated 19 Oct 1977 to Miss R J D Spooner, Dr Britt explained that “*We have only relatively recently taken on the title of an Associate Haemophilia Centre and, as you will see, our clientele is not very large*”.¹⁸
9. In the following years, the numbers of patients treated at Hillingdon Hospital from the available evidence were as follows:
 - a. 1976: The Centre treated 2 patients with haemophilia (A) and 1 patient with Christmas disease.¹⁹

¹⁴ CBLA0000533

¹⁵ CBLA0000533

¹⁶ CBLA0000657

¹⁷ CBLA0000838

¹⁸ HCDO0001085

¹⁹ HCDO0001085

- b. 1977: The Centre treated 4 patients with haemophilia (A) and 1 patient with Christmas Disease.²⁰
- c. 1978: The Centre treated 3 patients with haemophilia (A). The Centre did not treat any patients with von Willebrand's disease or Christmas disease.
- d. 1979: The Annual Returns signed by Dr Britt show that 3 patients with haemophilia (A) were treated.²¹ The Centre treated 1 patient with von Willebrand's and no patients with Christmas disease.
- e. 1980: The Annual Returns signed by Dr Britt indicate that the Centre treated 2 patients with haemophilia A and 1 patient with von Willebrand's disease.²² There were 9 registered patients with haemophilia A and 1 registered patient with von Willebrand's disease.²³
- f. 1981: The Annual Returns signed by Dr Britt indicate that the Centre treated 4 patients with haemophilia A and 1 patient with von Willebrand's disease.²⁴ It appears there were 9 registered patients with haemophilia A, 1 registered patient with von Willebrand's disease and 1 registered patient with von Willebrand's disease.²⁵
- g. 1982: The Annual Returns signed by Dr R P Britt indicated that the Centre treated 4 patients with haemophilia A and 1 patient with von Willebrand's disease.²⁶ There were 10 registered patients with haemophilia A, 1 registered patient with haemophilia B and 1 registered patient with von Willebrand's disease.²⁷

²⁰ HCDO0001167

²¹ HCDO0001333

²² HCDO0001428

²³ HCDO0001428

²⁴ HCDO0001529

²⁵ HCDO0001529

²⁶ HCDO0001629

²⁷ HCDO0001629

- h. 1983: The Annual Returns signed by R P Britt show that 6 patients with haemophilia A and 1 carrier of haemophilia A were treated at the Centre.²⁸ There were 12 registered patients with haemophilia A, 1 registered patient with haemophilia B and 1 registered patient with von Willebrand's disease.²⁹
- i. 1984: The Annual Returns signed by Dr R P Britt show that the Centre treated 5 patients with haemophilia A, 1 patient with haemophilia B and no patients with von Willebrand's disease.³⁰ There were 12 registered patients with haemophilia A, 1 registered patient with haemophilia B and 1 registered patient with von Willebrand's disease.³¹
- j. 1985: The Annual Returns signed by R P Britt show that 3 patients with haemophilia A and 1 patient with von Willebrand's disease were treated at the Centre.³² There were 14 registered patients with haemophilia A, 1 registered patient with haemophilia B and 1 registered patient with von Willebrand's disease.³³
- k. 1986: The Annual Returns signed by Dr R P Britt show that the Centre treated 3 patients with haemophilia A.³⁴
- l. 1987: The Annual Returns signed by R P Britt show that the Centre treated 4 patients with haemophilia A.³⁵
- m. 1988: The Annual Returns for 1988 signed by Dr Britt show that the Centre treated 4 patients with haemophilia A and 1 patient with von Willebrand's disease.³⁶ There were 15 registered patients with haemophilia A, 3 registered

²⁸ HCDO0001728

²⁹ HCDO0001728

³⁰ HCDO0001820

³¹ HCDO0001820

³² HCDO0001914

³³ HCDO0001914

³⁴ HCDO0000311_002

³⁵ HCDO0002097

³⁶ HCDO0002189

patients with haemophilia B and 3 registered patients with von Willebrand's disease.³⁷

10. Data from Hillingdon Haemophilia Centre was contributed to published studies including "*Haemophilia Treatment in the United Kingdom from 1969 to 1974*" by Rosemary Biggs,³⁸ and "*Treatment of haemophilia and related disorders in Britain and Northern Ireland during 1976-80*" by C R Rizza and Rosemary J D Spooner.³⁹

11. In addition to treating adults, an undated document suggests that the Haemophilia Centre at Hillingdon Hospital also treated patients under the age of 19.⁴⁰

Treatment policies and blood product usage

12. As part of the North West Thames Region, Dr R P Britt attended a meeting of Directors of Haemophilia Centres/Associate Haemophilia Centres and Blood Transfusion Centres on 15 December 1976.⁴¹ It was agreed that priority for NHS concentrate should be given to patients who were allergic to cryoprecipitate and to those who were already on home treatment with NHS concentrate. 20% of the allocation of NHS concentrate for the Region would be set aside each month for emergency use. As part of a discussion on the distribution and allocation of NHS and commercial concentrate, it was agreed that the Directors of Blood Transfusion Centres for the North West and North East Thames Region should handle NHS factor VIII products and that, in principle, they should be asked to look into the feasibility of purchase, allocation and distribution of commercial factor VIII (as was already the case in East Anglia).⁴²

13. The usage of products by Hillingdon Hospital in the following years was reported as:

³⁷ HCDO0002189. The Annual Returns for 1989 are at HCDO0002282

³⁸ PRSE0004645

³⁹ HCDO0000586

⁴⁰ HCDO0000013_269

⁴¹ CBLA0000533

⁴² CBLA0000533

- a. 1976: The Centre used 40 bottles of cryoprecipitate.⁴³
- b. 1977: The Centre used approximately 100 bottles of cryoprecipitate.⁴⁴
- c. 1978: The Centre treated 3 patients with haemophilia using 3420 units of cryoprecipitate and 580 units of NHS factor VIII concentrate (Elstree).⁴⁵ The Centre did not treat any patients with von Willebrand's disease or Christmas disease.
- d. 1979: The Centre used 20 bottles/1400 units of cryoprecipitate, 16 bottles/3990 units of NHS factor VIII concentrate, and 5 bottles/1140 units of Armour Factor VIII (Factorate).⁴⁶ The Centre treated 1 patient with von Willebrand's disease with 25 bottles/1750 units of cryoprecipitate⁴⁷. No patients with Christmas disease were treated at St Mary's during that year.⁴⁸
- e. 1980: The Centre used 10 bags of cryoprecipitate, 840 units of NHS factor VIII concentrate, and 14,676 units of Armour Factor VIII (Factorate) to treat 2 haemophilia A patients in hospital; and 2 bags of cryoprecipitate, 36 bags of NHS factor VIII concentrate, 4,130 units of Armour Factor VIII (Factorate) and 1,897 units of Immuno Factor VIII (Kryobulin) to treat a patient with von Willebrand's disease in hospital.⁴⁹
- f. 1981: It appears that the Centre used 6 bottles of cryoprecipitate, 37 bottles of Armour Factor VIII (Factorate), and 6 bottles of Immuno Factor VIII (Kryobulin) to treat haemophilia A patients in hospital.⁵⁰ The Centre used 20 bags of cryoprecipitate and 6 bottles of Armour Factor VIII concentrate to treat 1 patient with von Willebrand's disease in hospital.⁵¹

⁴³ HCDO0001085

⁴⁴ HCDO0001167

⁴⁵ HCDO0001264

⁴⁶ HCDO0001333

⁴⁷ HCDO0001333

⁴⁸ HCDO0001333

⁴⁹ HCDO0001428

⁵⁰ HCDO0001529

⁵¹ HCDO0001529

- g. 1982: To treat haemophilia A patients, the Centre used 70,812 units of Armour Factor VIII (Factorate) and 20,970 units of Immuno Factor VIII (Kryobulin) in hospital. 20 bags of cryoprecipitate were used to treat 1 patient with von Willebrand's disease in hospital.⁵² The Centre treated 1 patient with haemophilia B with 8,160 units of NHS factor IX concentrate in hospital.⁵³
- h. 1983: The Centre used 129 bags of cryoprecipitate, 20,350 units of NHS factor VIII concentrate, and 52,910 units of Armour Factor VIII (Factorate) to treat haemophilia A patients in hospital.⁵⁴ The Centre treated 2 patients with haemophilia B using 3,885 units of NHS factor IX concentrate in hospital.⁵⁵ This roughly corresponds with the amounts recorded as used by Hillingdon in the N W Thames region in 1983.⁵⁶
- i. 1984: The Centre used 30 bags of cryoprecipitate and 240 units x 93 of NHS factor VIII concentrate to treat haemophilia A patients in hospital, and 240 units x 35 for home treatment. For haemophilia B, the Centre used 600 x 8 units of NHS factor IX concentrate.⁵⁷
- j. 1985: The Annual Returns indicate that the Centre used plasma both in hospital and for home treatment, 2,380 units of NHS factor VIII concentrate in hospital and 2,720 units for home treatment, 2,400 units of Armour Factor VIII (Factorate) in hospital; and, it appears, 12,320 units of heat-treated (HT) NHS factor VIII in hospital and 19,320 units for home treatment.⁵⁸ A list of haemophiliacs treated within NWT RHA with NHS heat-treated factor concentrate in April 1985 shows three patients under the care of Dr Britt at Hillingdon Hospital.⁵⁹

⁵² HCDO0001629

⁵³ HCDO0001629

⁵⁴ HCDO0001728

⁵⁵ HCDO0001728

⁵⁶ HCDO0000152_003

⁵⁷ HCDO0001820

⁵⁸ HCDO0001914

⁵⁹ BPLL0010517_002 / CBLA0002161

- k. 1986: The Centre used 283 bottles of NHS factor VIII concentrate in hospital and 152 bottles of NHS factor VIII concentrate for home treatment.
- l. 1987: The Centre used cryoprecipitate (8 x 5 donors) in hospital, and NHS factor VIII concentrate (34,000 units in hospital and 32,4000 units for home treatment).⁶⁰
- m. 1988: The Centre used 164 vials/41,000 units of NHS factor VIII concentrate in hospital, and 34,250 units of NHS factor VIII concentrate for home treatment.⁶¹ Approximately 60 units of cryoprecipitate was used to treat 1 patient with von Willebrand's disease.⁶²

Knowledge of risk of hepatitis/AIDS and response to risk

14. It does not appear that Dr Britt himself attended many UKHCDO meetings. He often sent his apologies including for meetings held on 13 January 1977,⁶³ 24 October 1977,⁶⁴ 13 November 1978,⁶⁵ 20-21 November 1979,⁶⁶ 9 October 1981,⁶⁷ 17 October 1983,⁶⁸ 21 October 1985,⁶⁹ 9 October 1986,⁷⁰ 25 September 1987,⁷¹ and 21 September 1990.⁷² However, a number of other representatives from Hillingdon Hospital attended UKHCDO meetings on Dr Britt's behalf, including:

- a. Dr E Nketim on 24 October 1977;⁷³
- b. Dr Najam on 21 November 1979;⁷⁴

⁶⁰ HCDO0002097

⁶¹ HCDO0002189

⁶² HCDO0002189. The Annual Returns for 1989 are at HCDO0002282

⁶³ PRSE0002268

⁶⁴ PRSE0001002

⁶⁵ HSOC0010549

⁶⁶ CBLA0001028

⁶⁷ CBLA0001464

⁶⁸ PRSE0004440

⁶⁹ PRSE0001638

⁷⁰ PRSE0004317

⁷¹ HCDO0000485

⁷² HCDO0000015_021

⁷³ PRSE0001002

⁷⁴ CBLA0001028

- c. Dr Liz Miller on 9 October 1981;⁷⁵
- d. Dr G Robbins on 17 October 1983,⁷⁶ and 21 October 1985.⁷⁷

15. It does not appear that Dr Britt contributed to the Glasgow Symposium on “*Unresolved problems in Haemophilia*” in 1980,⁷⁸ or the Manchester Symposium on “*Current Topics in Haemophilia*” in 1982.⁷⁹

16. In 1985, a meeting of Directors of Haemophilia Centres supplied by NBTS Edgware (including Dr Britt of Hillingdon Hospital) was arranged for 18 January 1985 to discuss the problems related to AIDS/HTLVIII in Haemophiliacs.⁸⁰ The topics to be covered included:

- a. Brief general review of AIDS/HTLV 3 related problems in haemophilia in UK and USA;
- b. Evidence regarding efficacy and safety of heat-treated concentrates;
- c. Availability/cost of commercial products;
- d. Problems at BTS: donor screening, product distribution
- e. Problems at BPL Elstree: product availability;
- f. Problems of anti-HTLV 3 screening in patients/families/staff;
- g. Patient management and counselling;
- h. Aspects of laboratory/clinical safety, and potential industrial problems;
- i. Financial problems.

Testing and numbers infected with HCV / HIV

17. According to provisional data received by the Inquiry from UKHCDO, there were no patients at Hillingdon Hospital who tested positive for HIV.⁸¹

⁷⁵ CBLA0001464

⁷⁶ PRSE0004440

⁷⁷ PRSE0001638

⁷⁸ RLIT0001242

⁷⁹ DHSC0002221_003

⁸⁰ CBLA0001975. The Directors of the following Haemophilia Centres supplied by NBTS Edgware were invited to the meeting: GOSH, UCH, Luton & Dunstable, Ashford, Bedford, Edgware, Middlesex, Hillingdon, Lister (Stevenage), and Charing Cross.

⁸¹ INQY0000250

18. On 18 June 1984, Dr P Hewitt of North London Blood Transfusion Centre wrote to Dr R P Britt regarding a patient who had received blood transfusions in 1982. After following up the donors involved and on repeat testing, she concluded that this was probably a case of non-A non-B post transfusion hepatitis.⁸²
19. In 1994, it came to light that “*a further recipient [was] infected with HIV through blood transfusion*” at Hillingdon Hospital whilst an in-patient at the special care baby unit in December 1982/January 1983.⁸³ The infected donor had been identified in 1986 and a previous lookback had shown that the same donation was transfused to another patient who was also infected.
20. An anti-HCV lookback exercise was conducted in 1995 by North London BTC at Hillingdon Hospital.⁸⁴
21. In January 1996, a local resident wrote to his MP, Sir Michael Shersby MP, stating that as part of the lookback study, he became aware that he had been given blood infected with HCV:⁸⁵
- “I have had confirmation, that in the course of an operation at The Hillingdon Hospital in June 1991, I was given blood which was contaminated by Hepatitis C Virus (HCV). I have been informed via the National Blood Transfusion Service in it’s current ‘look-back study’ that as a result of being given the contaminated blood I am now infected with HCV, probably for the rest of my life, with the related consequences to my health, social life etc.”*
22. Sir Michael Shersby MP subsequently wrote to Mr Sackville, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health by letter dated 29 January 1996 raising the issue.⁸⁶

⁸² NHBT0018464_005

⁸³ NHBT0059589

⁸⁴ NHBT0022102

⁸⁵ DHSC0004728_180

⁸⁶ DHSC0004728_178

23. In 1998, Dr M C Moore wrote to Dr R Kaczmariski, Consultant Haematologist, at Hillingdon Hospital chasing the return of 5 forms sent previously as part of the HCV lookback.⁸⁷ Dr Moore provided an update on the HCV lookback exercise to date (as of 12 March 1998):

“A total of 1265 components from North London have been identified as being from donors subsequently found anti HCV positive, or whose test results were “indeterminate” but consistent with past infection.

So far 1084 forms have been returned of these only 274 patients (approximately 25%) have been followed up. The remainder are either deceased, untraceable or not tested either because of age or choice.

167 recipients of components from anti HCV positive donors have been traced and of these 72 (43%) are anti HCV positive or infected. The remainder had indeterminate or negative test results.

In contrast only 1 recipient of the 17 so far traced in the “indeterminate lookback” has been shown to be anti HCV positive and this recipient is negative on PCR testing.”⁸⁸

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⁸⁷ NHBT0022113_001

⁸⁸ NHBT0022113_001