

SMALLER HAEMOPHILIA CENTRES

LISTER HOSPITAL, STEVENAGE

The Centre

1. The Haemophilia Centre at Lister Hospital, Stevenage, was assigned centre number 91. A document outlining the structure of haemophilia centres in 1976 recorded that it was part of the Royal Free Supraregion.¹ It continued to be part of the Royal Free Supraregion in 1977-1982.² The Centre's director was Dr JRB Williams from 1976 until 1988.³ From 1988 until at least 1990, Dr CJ Tew was Director of the Centre.⁴

Number of patients treated at the Centre

2. The available annual returns record the following patient numbers:
 - a. In 1976 the Centre treated 1 haemophilia A patient and 1 patient with von Willebrand's disease.⁵
 - b. In 1977 the Centre treated 3 patients with haemophilia A.⁶
 - c. In 1979 the Centre treated 2 patients with haemophilia A and 1 patient with von Willebrand's disease.⁷
 - d. In 1980 the Centre treated 7 haemophilia A patients and 1 patient with von Willebrand's disease.⁸
 - e. In 1981 the Centre treated 6 haemophilia A patients and 2 patients with von Willebrand's disease.⁹
 - f. In 1982 the Centre treated 4 haemophilia A patients.¹⁰

¹ CBLA0000699

² HCDO0000138_012

³ See HCDO0000044_003 and HCDO0002141.

⁴ See HCDO0002233 and HCDO0002416.

⁵ HCDO0000044_003

⁶ HCDO0001208

⁷ HCDO0001375

⁸ HCDO0001472

⁹ HCDO0001576

¹⁰ HCDO0001672

- g. In 1983 the Centre treated 8 haemophilia A patients and 1 patient with von Willebrand's disease.¹¹
- h. In 1984 the Centre treated 5 haemophilia A patients.¹²
- i. In 1985 the Centre treated 3 haemophilia A patients and 1 patient with acquired haemophilia A.¹³

Blood product usage

- 3. In 1976, the Centre treated its patients as follows:¹⁴
 - a. The haemophilia A patient was treated with 7,840 units of cryoprecipitate.
 - b. The patient with von Willebrand's was treated with plasma.
- 4. In 1977, the Centre treated its haemophilia A patients with cryoprecipitate (16,500 units) and NHS concentrate (410 units).¹⁵
- 5. In 1979, the Centre treated its patients as follows:¹⁶
 - a. The haemophilia A patients were treated with cryoprecipitate (21,300 units) and NHS concentrate (9,580 units).
 - b. The patient with Von Willebrand's disease was treated with plasma.
- 6. In 1980, the Centre treated its patients as follows:¹⁷
 - a. Haemophilia A patients were treated with cryoprecipitate (28,200 units) and NHS concentrates (19,500 units) in hospital.

¹¹ HCDO0001768

¹² HCDO0001862

¹³ HCDO0001957

¹⁴ HCDO0000044_003

¹⁵ HCDO0001208

¹⁶ HCDO0001375

¹⁷ HCDO0001472

- b. The patient with von Willebrand's disease was treated with cryoprecipitate in hospital.
- 7. In 1981, the Centre treated its patients as follows:¹⁸
 - a. Haemophilia A patients were treated with cryoprecipitate (20,040 units) and NHS concentrates (2, 470 units) in hospital.
 - b. Von Willebrand's disease patients were treated with cryoprecipitate in hospital.
- 8. In 1982, the Centre treated its A patients with cryoprecipitate (17,200 units) and NHS concentrate (4,500 units) in hospital.¹⁹
- 9. In 1983, the Centre treated its patients as follows:²⁰
 - a. Haemophilia A patients were treated with cryoprecipitate (23,960 units), NHS concentrates (6,660 units) and commercial concentrates (Factorate) (620 units) in hospital.
 - b. The patient with Von Willebrand's disease was treated with plasma in hospital.
- 10. In 1984, the Centre treated its haemophilia A patients with cryoprecipitate (64,000 units) and NHS concentrate (6,495 units) in hospital.²¹
- 11. In 1985, the Centre treated its patients as follows:²²
 - a. Haemophilia A patients were treated with cryoprecipitate (63,200 units) and NHS concentrate (480 units) in hospital.
 - b. The patient with acquired haemophilia A was treated with tranexamic acid (and another product with a name which is difficult to decipher).

¹⁸ HCDO0001576

¹⁹ HCDO0001672

²⁰ HCDO0001768

²¹ HCDO0001862

²² HCDO0001957

Treatment policies

12. At a meeting of Directors of Haemophilia, Associate Haemophilia and Blood Transfusion Centres on 23 September 1977, Dr Williams stated that only cryoprecipitate was used at the Centre and that no NHS concentrate was needed.²³ However, the Centre's 1977 annual return suggests that a small amount of NHS concentrate was used during the course of the year (410 units, as against 16,500 units of cryoprecipitate).
13. The remainder of the Centre's annual returns to 1985 would appear to suggest a preference for treating haemophilia A patients with cryoprecipitate over concentrate. Nearly all of the concentrate was also NHS material: commercial Factor VIII was used only in 1983 (620 units of Factorate, as against 6,660 units of NHS concentrate and 23,960 units of cryoprecipitate).
14. While the pre-1980 annual returns do not distinguish between treatment provided in hospital and at home, the returns from 1980 suggest that the Centre did not have a home treatment programme.

Knowledge of risk of hepatitis and AIDS/HTLV-III

15. UKHCDO minutes show that Dr Williams attended UKHCDO meetings on 13 January 1977,²⁴ 24 October 1977,²⁵ 17 October 1983²⁶ and 12 October 1985.²⁷ They do not record Dr Tew attending any UKHCDO meetings between 1988 and 1990, after succeeding Dr Williams as Director.
16. It may be reasonable to assume that as directors both Dr Williams and Dr Tew would have received copies of the reports circulated for, and minutes of, UKHCDO meetings they did not attend.

²³ BART0000689

²⁴ PRSE0002268

²⁵ PRSE0001002

²⁶ PRSE0004440

²⁷ PRSE0001638

17. A number of hepatitis survey reports are available for the Centre.

- a. In a 20 April 1978 report, Dr Williams recorded that a patient with haemophilia A had tested positive for hepatitis B.²⁸ The patient had been treated with cryoprecipitate on one occasion in the six months prior to diagnosis.
- b. In a report provided to Miss Spooner at the Oxford Haemophilia Centre in June 1984, Dr Williams recorded that a haemophilia patient had developed clinical symptoms of hepatitis around 10 March 1984, with raised liver function tests detected on 12 March 1984.²⁹ A hepatitis B test was negative. Dr Williams described the patient as having developed a mild clinical infection 10 days after treatment with cryoprecipitate and NHS concentrate. It appears that some of the treatment was given during a dental extraction.
- c. On 27 July 1984, Dr Williams completed a report for a haemophilia A patient who had developed hepatitis around 13 days after treatment with cryoprecipitate and commercial concentrate (Factorate) for a dental extraction.³⁰ The treatment was given at Guy's Hospital, London and the patient had not been treated recently at the Centre. The patient tested positive for hepatitis B. A manuscript note on the report appears to read: "*Acute non-B hepatitis in a hepatitis B carrier*".³¹

Testing for HIV

18. On 14 January 1985, Dr Williams wrote to Dr Tuddenham at the Royal Free Hospital with a query about the UKHCDO AIDS advisory document, which he had just received.³² He noted that the document suggested that haemophilia patients should be tested for HTLV-III and asked where sample should be sent, before noting: "*I am quite prepared to get up all the patients on our current list and send them to you in*

²⁸ HCDO0000255_048

²⁹ HCDO0000256_093

³⁰ HCDO0000256_074

³¹ Dr Williams provided a follow-up report from the Public Health Laboratory Service to Miss Spooner in August 1984 [HCDO0000256_073].

³² RFLT0000203_080

one or two batches". Dr Kernoff responded on Dr Tuddenham's behalf on 23 January 1985 with suggestions for where samples should be sent.³³ He also commented: *"Despite what is said in the document, I am very doubtful whether testing for anti HLTv3 contributes much to clinical management. Apart from indicating previous infection with the agent, the significance of a positive result is uncertain, both as regards an indicator of infectivity or as a predictor of AIDS. Also, a negative result does not exclude either"*.

19. Data available to the Inquiry suggests that 1 patient tested positive for HIV at the Centre in 1985.³⁴

Other information

20. A number of documents are available concerning Dr Williams' role, as a consultant haematologist, in matters related to the infection of patients by blood transfusion.³⁵

21. In a form submitted to the Archer Inquiry in 2007, a patient who was infected with HIV described being informed of his HIV status in January 1985, after receiving a phone call in which Dr Williams stated that he wanted to test him.³⁶ The patient wrote that he had been infected in September 1984 *"after blood transfusions following an operation on my nose"*.

MAC BLUNDELL
Inquiry Legal Team

JENNI RICHARDS KC
ADAM BOUKRAA
Inquiry Counsel Team
November 2022

³³ RFLT0000203_079

³⁴ WITN3826020

³⁵ See, for example, NHBT0115644_002, NHBT0115629_002 and NHBT0115629_035.

³⁶ ARCH0001365