SMALLER HAEMOPHILIA CENTRES

LUTON & DUNSTABLE HAEMOPHILIA CENTRE

The Centre and relationship with other Haemophilia Centres

1. The Haemophilia Centre at Luton and Dunstable Hospital was designated as centre number 92.[1] In a 1976 document on the structure of haemophilia centres, it was noted to be part of the Royal Free Supraregion.[2] In November 1976, it was proposed that Luton and Dunstable become an Associate Centre in the North West Thames Region.[3] The Centre remained part of the Royal Free Supraregion in 1977-1982.[4]

2. Dr DS Thompson was Director of the Centre from the mid-1970s to at least 1990.[5] On 1 September 1978, he attended a meeting of the Directors of Haemophilia, Associate Haemophilia and Blood Transfusion Centres in the East Anglia, North West Thames and North East Thames Regional Health Authorities.[6] The Centre was recorded as being part of the North West Thames Regional Health Authority.

Number of patients treated

3. The available annual returns to 1985 record the following patient numbers:

    a. In 1975 the Centre treated 11 haemophilia A patients and 1 haemophilia B patient.[7]

    b. In 1976 the Centre treated 5 haemophilia A patients and 1 haemophilia B patient.[8]

    c. In 1977 the Centre treated 9 haemophilia A patients, 2 von Willebrand's disease patients, 2 haemophilia B patients and 1 haemophilia B carrier.[9]

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[1] WITN3826016
[2] CBLA0000699
[3] CBLA0002956_005
[4] HCDO0000138_012
[5] See the annual returns referred to below and HCDO0002388.
[6] CBLA0000838
[7] OXUH0000726_002
[8] HCDO0000043_002
[9] HCDO0001181

d. In 1978 the Centre treated 12 haemophilia A patients, 1 von Willebrand's disease patient and 3 haemophilia B patients.[10]

e. In 1979 the Centre treated 9 haemophilia A patients, 4 haemophilia B patients and 1 haemophilia B carrier.[11]

f. In 1980 the Centre treated 12 haemophilia A patients and 5 haemophilia B patients.[12]

g. In 1981 the Centre treated 10 haemophilia A patients, 5 haemophilia B patients and 1 haemophilia B carrier.[13]

h. In 1982 the Centre treated 12 haemophilia A patients and 4 haemophilia B patients.[14]

i. In 1983 the Centre treated 11 haemophilia A patients, 7 haemophilia B patients and 2 haemophilia B carriers.[15]

j. In 1985 the Centre treated 8 haemophilia A patients, 1 acquired haemophilia A patient, 6 haemophilia B patients and 2 haemophilia B carriers.[16]

Blood products used

4. In 1975, the Centre treated its haemophilia patients with plasma (3 bottles) and cryoprecipitate (668 packs).[17]

5. In 1976, the Centre treated its haemophilia A patients with cryoprecipitate (50,000 units) and commercial concentrate (Hemofil) (6,750 units).[18]

6. In 1977, the Centre treated its patients as follows:[19]

[10] HCDO0001278
[11] HCDO0001347
[12] HCDO0001443
[13] HCDO0001544
[14] HCDO0001643
[15] HCDO0001741
[16] HCDO0001927
[17] OXUH0000726_002
[18] HCDO0000043_002
[19] HCDO0001181

a. Haemophilia A patients were treated with cryoprecipitate (90,230 units), commercial concentrate (Hemofil) (15,650 units) and NHS concentrate (9,760).

b. The von Willebrand's disease patients were treated with cryoprecipitate.

7. In 1978, the Centre treated its patients as follows:[20]

a. Haemophilia A patients were treated with cryoprecipitate (137,830 units), NHS concentrate (42,110 units) and commercial concentrate (Factorate) (31,368 units).

b. The von Willebrand's disease patient was treated with cryoprecipitate.

8. In 1979, the Centre treated its haemophilia A patients were treated with cryoprecipitate (129,920 units), commercial concentrate (43,397 units) and NHS concentrate (42,645 units).[21]

9. In 1980, the Centre treated its haemophilia A patients with commercial concentrates (Factorate and Kryobulin) (107,867 units, of which 7,225 units were provided in hospital and 100,641 at home), cryoprecipitate (57,500 units, of which 54,000 units were in hospital and 3,500 at home) and NHS concentrate (29,305 units, of which 2,530 units were in hospital and 26,775 at home).[22]

10. In 1981, the Centre treated its patients as follows:[23]

a. Haemophilia A patients were treated with commercial concentrate (Factorate) (188,738 units, of which 44,997 units were in hospital and 143,741 at home), NHS concentrate (83,540 units, of which 11,625 units were in hospital and 71,915 at home) and cryoprecipitate (78 packs in hospital).

b. A patient with Factor VIII antibodies was treated with commercial concentrate (Factorate) and NHS concentrate.

[20] HCDO0001278
[21] HCDO0001347
[22] HCDO0001443
[23] HCDO0001544

11. In 1982, the Centre treated its patients as follows:[24]

    a. Haemophilia A patients were treated with commercial concentrates (Factorate and Koate) (321,165 units, of which 44,750 were in hospital and 276,415 at home), NHS concentrate (89,765 units, of which 19,430 units were in hospital and 70,335 at home) and cryoprecipitate (3,500 units in hospital).

    b. The patient with Factor VIII antibodies was treated with commercial concentrates (Factorate and Koate) and NHS concentrate.

12. In 1983, the Centre treated its patients as follows:[25]

    a. Haemophilia A patients were treated with commercial concentrates (Koate, Factorate and Kryobulin) (283,784 units, of which 27,524 were in hospital and 256,260 were at home) and NHS concentrate (138,465 units, of which 21,840 were in hospital and 116,625 were at home).

    b. The patient with Factor VIII antibodies was treated with commercial concentrates (Factorate, Koate and Kryobulin) and NHS concentrate in hospital and at home.

13. In 1985, the Centre treated its patients as follows:[26]

    a. Haemophilia A patients were treated with commercial concentrate (Factorate) (294,400 units, of which 15,885 units were in hospital and 278,515 at home) and NHS concentrate (49,600 units at home).

    b. The patient with Factor VIII antibodies was treated with commercial concentrate (Factorate) at home.

    c. The acquired haemophilia A patient was treated with commercial concentrate (Armour), Porcine Factor VIII and NHS concentrate in hospital.

[24] HCDO0001643
[25] HCDO0001741
[26] HCDO0001927

14. Haemophilia B patients were treated with NHS concentrate throughout 1976-1983.[27] In 1985 they were treated with both NHS and commercial (Alpha) concentrate[28]. Haemophilia B carriers were treated with NHS concentrate in 1977[29], 1979[30], 1981[31], 1983[32] and 1985[33].

Knowledge of risk of hepatitis/AIDS and HTLV-III

15. UKHCDO minutes show that Dr Thompson attended UKHCDO meetings on 13 January 1977[34], 24 October 1977[35], 13 November 1978[36], 9 October 1981[37], 17 October 1983[38], 21 October 1985[39]. Dr Thompson also attended UKHCDO meetings in the second half of the 1980s (for example, on 9 October 1989).[40]

16. Apologies for absence were received from Dr Thompson for UKHCDO meetings on 30 September 1980[41], 13 September 1982[42], 27 September 1984[43]. It may be reasonable to assume that as Director of the Luton and Dunstable Haemophilia Centre, Dr Thompson would have received copies of the reports circulated for, and the minutes of, UKHCDO meetings that he did not attend.

17. In August 1976, Dr Thompson corresponded with Lord Mayor Treloar College about a patient who attended Treloar's and had been infected with hepatitis B.[44] Dr Culver-James of Treloar's suggested that it was likely that that the patient had developed hepatitis B following treatment with cryoprecipitate.[45] In October 1986, Dr Thompson recorded that the patient had been treated with cryoprecipitate at the

[27] HCDO0000043_002; HCDO0001181; HCDO0001278; HCDO0001347; HCDO0001443; HCDO0001643; HCDO0001741
[28] HCDO0001927
[29] HCDO0001181
[30] HCDO0001347
[31] HCDO0001443
[32] HCDO0001741
[33] HCDO0001927
[34] PRSE0002268
[35] PRSE0001002
[36] HSOC0010549
[37] CBLA0001464
[38] PRSE0004440
[39] PRSE0001638
[40] HCDO0000015_035
[41] PRSE0003946
[42] CBLA0001619
[43] PRSE0003659
[44] TREL0000147_043
[45] TREL0000147_042

Centre during the summer holidays, and that he seemed to be "*recovering satisfactorily*" from his "*episode of hepatitis*".[46]

18. In May 1981, Dr Craske wrote to Dr Thompson about a hepatitis survey report he had submitted.[47] Dr Craske noted that Dr Thompson had completed the chronic hepatitis form for the patient, before commenting: "*I wonder whether this case might not be better reported as an acute case of hepatitis, as he seems to have had an attack of jaundice last November which was followed by abnormal liver function tests*". He asked whether the patient had received any Factor VIII concentrate "*prior to the Armour Factorate which is no doubt the cause of his recent acute hepatitis*". Dr Craske further commented:

> "*I agree with you that it is likely that* [the patient] *may eventually develop chronic hepatitis, but we now know that this sort of hepatitis can resolve completely anytime up to three years after the onset of the acute illness. It may therefore be wiser to list this case as one of acute hepatitis onset in November, 1980, with possible persistence of abnormal serum enzyme levels with possible chronic liver disease as a sequel to this.*"

19. On 22 March 1983, Dr Thompson notified Miss Spooner (of the Oxford Haemophilia Centre) of a patient who had developed jaundice in May 1982.[48] He apologised for this being "*rather a retrospective notification*" and explained: "*I only became aware of the case by a roundabout route after his wife subsequently developed an attack of hepatitis and was found to be HBsAg Positive*".

20. Dr Thompson also corresponded with the NBTS in the 1980s regarding patients who had developed hepatitis following blood transfusions. This includes, for example, a June 1984 letter from Dr Hewitt regarding a patient who had developed jaundice in May 1982, approximately 5 weeks after a blood transfusion, which was "*probably non A non B hepatitis*".[49]

21. In 1986, a 6 year old patient who was managed jointly by the Centre and the Royal Free Hospital tested positive for HTLV-III following treatment with heat-treated

[46] TREL0000147_035
[47] HCDO0000256_172
[48] HCDO0000260_542
[49] NHBT0115637_004

concentrate. In a July 1986 letter to Dr Forbes, Dr Kernoff explained that the patient "*was treated with unheated Elstree NHS factor VIII concentrate until 16.12.84*".[50] On 17 January 1985 the patient's treatment was changed to heat-treated Factorate, before switching to the NHS 8Y product on 31 January 1986. The patient tested negative on 6 March and 8 November 1985, before testing positive on 14 February 1986. Dr Kernoff commented that "*the probability must be that one or more of the batches of Factorate and/or the one batch of 8Y product were contaminated with HTLV 3*".

22. An internal Armour note regarding this patient recorded that he was "*normally treated at the Luton & Dunstable Hospital*" but that he "came under" the Royal Free Reference Centre.[51] The note suggested that the patient was treated with unheated NHS material until 8 January 1985 before switching to heat-treated Armour product until 31 January 1986. He sero-converted two weeks after moving to the NHS product. The note recorded that the patient had been treated with four batches of Armour heat-treated product, and that neither the batches nor the donors contributing to them had been tested for HTLV-III.

Testing for HIV/HCV and numbers of patients infected

23. UKHCDO data available to the Inquiry suggests that no patients were identified at the Centre as infected with HIV between 1984-1986.[52]

24. An Inquiry witness who developed leukaemia and came under the care of Dr Thompson at the Luton and Dunstable Hospital in December 1992 has stated that he was tested for HCV at the Luton and Dunstable Hospital without his knowledge.[53] The patient's statement describes being informed in 2003 that he was infected with HCV and learning that that he had tested positive in 1993 and 2003. A statement on behalf of Luton and Dunstable Hospital states that HCV was first detected in the patient in September 2000 and accepts that he was not informed of this until 2003.[54] The statement adds: "*at that time (2000), it would more likely than not to have been the usual practice to obtain informed consent from a patient when undertaking such a*

[50] HCDO0000271_069
[51] ARMO0000545
[52] WITN3826020
[53] WITN3023001
[54] WITN3911001

test. I have failed to find confirmation that consent was obtained from W3023, and for which the Trust apologises to W3023".

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