

HCV 145

**EDINBURGH & SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE**

Blood Donor Centre  
Lauriston Building  
41 Lauriston Place  
EDINBURGH  
EH3 9HB



Department of Transfusion Medicine  
Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh  
Lauriston Place  
EDINBURGH  
EH3 9HB

Fax: 031-228 5238

Telephone: 031-229 2585  
Donor Enquiries: 031-229 7291

Fax: 031-229 1069

Please reply to:

Blood Donor Centre

FEB/AB

21 February 1990

Professor J D Cash  
National Medical Director  
SNBTS Headquarters  
Medical Unit  
Livingstone House  
39 Cowgate  
EDINBURGH  
EH1 1JR

HCV

Dear John

Please find enclosed a rather hasty transcription of my notes of the HCV Symposium early this month.

Could I just add that in spite of obvious difficulties with the current Ortho Elisa assay (susceptibility to "stickiness", unreliability of predictive value with heat treated samples, etc) I have developed a very strong feeling that the screening of donors for HCV antibodies should be introduced at the earliest possible opportunity. This is not because of the "science", but because there appears to be little doubt that people have contracted HCV as a result of transfusions which they would not have received had those transfusions been screened for HCV antibody. Furthermore there are apparently five known cases of HCC due to PTH. The reason, therefore, from my proposing this view is actually one based on future litigation. I am pretty convinced that the NBTS and SNBTS will find legal action taken against them in about 10 years' time from persons who have sustained post transfusion hepatitis as a result of receiving HCV antibody containing blood which was presumably infectious for HCV at the time.

Kindest regards  
Yours sincerely

GRO-C

Dr F E Boulton  
CONSULTANT

cc Dr McClelland

