

NORTHERN REGIONAL HAEMOPHILIA SERVICE

NEWCASTLE HAEMOPHILIA CENTRE

THE ROYAL VICTORIA INFIRMARY

QUEEN VICTORIA ROAD, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, NE1 4LP

TELEPHONE

NEWCASTLE 325131, Ext. 773

STD 0632

Ref: PJ/MB

18 February 1986

The Medical Assessor  
The Committee on Safety of Medicines  
Market Towers  
1 Nine Elms Lane  
LONDON  
SW8 5NQ

Dear Sir

AIDS, heat treatment of clotting factor concentrates and haemophilia

I enclose information I have that suggests HTLV III seroconversion in previously seronegative haemophiliacs being infused with some types of factor VIII concentrate, especially that heat treated in the dry state for less than three days. I do realise that the evidence is only suggestive, but I thought it sufficiently worrying to mention the possibility that we were not out of the woods yet in my paper to the AIDS Conference. A copy of this is enclosed, together with a covering letter written to Haemophilia Centre Directors.

In this Centre, in addition to available NHS concentrate which is at least heated for 72 hours, we have changed our patients to the Alpha material because of a report to me by Dr Koerper that it was free of virus, after testing by Dr Levy in San Francisco. It is my personal opinion that, unless there is irrefutable evidence to the contrary, the Armour material should be withheld until its safety can be endorsed by the C.S.M.

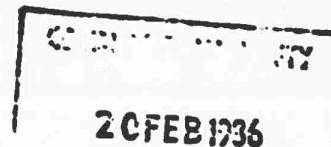
Yours faithfully

GRO-C

PETER JONES MD FRCP DCH  
Director

cc Dr J Smith  
Director, P.H.L.S.

Dr A Smithies  
DHSS



**Evidence about seropositivity  
following heat treated factor  
concentrates**

**Product**

**Source of  
information**

Adult haemophiliac followed for almost  
a year on HT material, heterosexual, no  
other risk factors, repeatedly tested  
after being seronegative

Armour

Dr. Breederveld,  
University of Amsterdam.  
Permission to quote given  
February 1986

3 haemophiliacs all reported to CDC who  
appear to "probably" fulfil criteria for  
seroconversion in one case and "possibly"  
fulfil criteria in 2 cases.

Not Known

Dr. Levine. Permission  
to quote given February  
1986

Virus detected in material subjected to  
heating for less than 34 hours. One  
product said to cause seroconversion.

Armour

Dr. Koerper, University  
of California, San  
Francisco, also quoting  
work of Dr. Levy, December  
1985

Haemophiliac without other risk factors  
treated at Chapel Hill and reported as  
seroconversion after HT material.

Hyland

Reported to Professor  
Mamucci, February, 1986

Seroconversions in the FDR were also reported to a meeting of the Haemophilia  
Society in November 1985.

David Watters, co-ordinator  
Haemophilia Society, London  
February 1986