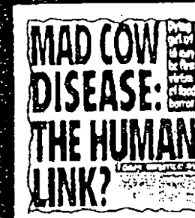




Exposed: Cover-up No 1

Mad Cow blood donor cover-up



Exposed: Another scandal

'Research spurned'

A TOP scientist yesterday condemned the Government for not investigating CJD blood donations.

Medical expert Lynette Dumble, of Melbourne University and a leading authority on CJD in Australia, said: "It seems an attempt at a massive cover up."

"We desperately need as much research into this as we can get."

"I cannot understand how any Government in the world can turn their back on the opportunity for research."

TODAY
NEWS
EXCLUSIVE

by ALAN WATKINS

HUNDREDS of people will not be told they were given blood transfusions from donors who later died from CJD.

The Government decision was taken at "the highest level to spare patients unnecessary anxiety".

But TODAY can reveal the Department of Health is attempting its THIRD Mad Cow Disease cover-up in 10 years.

It comes just days after ministers and top health officials pledged to reassure the public by investigating all aspects of the brain disease - Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy in cattle and its human form, Creutzfeldt Jakob Disease.

Agriculture minister Gillian Shephard has admitted she kept quiet for 12 days after France demanded guarantees that British cattle were free of Mad Cow Disease.

Already, 22 blood donors are among 156 people who

have died from CJD in the last three years.

Health bosses know their names, and the names of those who received their blood. But they are refusing to investigate because they say CJD is not transmitted in blood.

This is a direct contradiction of their decision in 1989 banning donations

Hundreds kept in the dark

from anyone with neurological diseases, or who had undergone growth hormone treatment with human pituitaries.

The National Blood Transfusion Service then claimed the Government

feared blood could be contaminated with the infective agent that causes CJD.

But in a statement to TODAY, the Department of Health said: "There are no plans to trace the recipients of the blood donations."

There is no scientific evidence of any risk of CJD through blood or blood products and so counselling would be inappropriate.

In the absence of any test for CJD, no helpful information could be given, either reassuring patients telling them that they were at risk."



Mrs Shephard: Kept quiet

The Sale of Excellence

TODAY 9/7/94