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ACVSB 8/7 0092

PRELIMINARY REPORT

NBTS HCV Study

Plasma and serum samples were received from 69 donors referred from 3 transfusion centres. The reasons for referral were as follows: 25 samples were considered to be reactive by both screen tests (Abbott and Ortho), 18 were reactive by Abbott only and 25 by Ortho only. One serum was referred in spite of being negative by both assays.

Sera were tested for antibody to HCV by all of the following assays; plasmas were tested for HCV RNA:

- a) Solid-phase ELISA;
 - Abbott Ltd (C100)
 - Ortho Ltd (C100)
- b) Supplemental assays:
 - Neutralisation assay (Abbott; C100)
 - RIBA-2 (Ortho; 5-1-1, C100, C33c, C22c)
 - In house ELISA (Wellcome; structural/NS5)
- c) PCR for HCV RNA

RESULTS

Repeat of initial screens

On retesting the following results were obtained on sera, categorised by their initial pre-referral results:

- i Concordant - positive (n = 25)
 - 18 concordant positive
 - 4 Abbot only
 - 2 Ortho only
 - 1 unreactive in both

} Both above 4th 86
- ii Abbott - positive only (n = 18)
 - 1 concordant positive
 - 16 Abbott only
 - 0 Ortho only
 - 1 unreactive in both
- iii Ortho - positive only (n = 25)
 - 3 concordant positive
 - 0 Abbott only
 - 7 Ortho only
 - 15 unreactive in both

} perhaps more number of which produce more not too many
- iv Unreactive (n = 1)
 - remained unreactive

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Supplemental testing:

Ten samples (Table) were considered reactive by one or more of the supplemental assays, HCV-RNA was detected by PCR in six of these specimens. All other samples were unreactive in PCR for HCV RNA.

CONCLUSIONS

69 samples were referred; on retesting 51 remained reactive, 22 concordantly. Six samples only were considered to have come from currently-infected donors. Five of these were positive for antibody in all supplemental assays; the sixth was positive in the neutralisation and BHC-11 supplemental assays but only showed an anti-C22c reaction in the RIBA 2. Four sera were only positive in single supplementary assays, two in the neutralisation and two in the BHC 11 assays.

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Table

Sera reactive in one or more supplemental assays.

Specimen	RTC	Test criteria	RIBA 2	Abbott neutralisation	Wellcome BHC-11	SINCR	PCR JG2/3
1	NLBTC	O+ A+	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive
2	NLBTC	O+ A+	Indeterminate*	Positive	Positive	Positive	Negative
3	NLBTC	O+ A+	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive
4	NLBTC	O+ A-	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative
5	Newcastle	O+ A+	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Negative
6	Newcastle	O+ A-	Negative	Negative	Positive	Negative	Negative
7	Glasgow	O+ A+	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Negative
8	Glasgow	O+ A+	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive
9	Glasgow	O+ A+	Negative	Positive	Negative	Negative	Negative
10	Glasgow	O+ A+	Negative	Positive	Negative	Negative	Negative

* antibody to C22c only.