

NOTE OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON THE EVALUATION OF ANTI-HTLV III KITS, HELD AT DHSS ON 25 SEPTEMBER, 1985

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1. Present:
- Newcastle PHLs
 - Ruchill Hospital, Glasgow
 - Manchester BTS
 - Edinburgh BTS
 - " "
 - Manchester BTS
 - Welsh Office
 - PHLS Virus Reference Laboratory
 - DHSS
 - " (Chairman)
 - " (Secretary)

Apologies were received from _____ and _____

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 1985: These were taken as read.
3. _____ introduced the draft report of the evaluation of the Organon and Wellcome kits at Manchester and Edgware BTSs and indicated some corrections. The overall conclusion was that both kits were suitable for routine screening of blood donations. The Wellcome kit was, however, the easiest to use and the equipment supplied for use with it was better than that supplied by Organon. Wellcome's results were not easy to read by eye and the evaluators considered that computer-aided interpretation of data was necessary. The Apricot-based Sanguin package was under evaluation at Manchester BTC where Organon kits are to be used initially. The Sanguin package is only suitable for use with the Dynatech reader. Further automation of the Organon procedure was thought to be necessary. A Hamilton multi-injection syringe system was being used at the Manchester BTC. It was thought that both suppliers should provide larger sized kits for large scale users such as BTCs.

9. introduced the final draft of the report of the evaluation of Abbott, ENI, Organon, Ortho and Wellcome kits. This had an appendix which dealt with the Western blot results obtained on most of the panel of sera and an appendix which gave immunofluorescence results obtained by . conclusions were that it would be unwise to rely on the the use of Western blot alone to confirm positive results obtained in anti-HTLV III assays and that in experienced hands immunofluorescence assay would be a useful confirmatory procedure in conjunction with others. It was reported that the Lancet had accepted an article based on the evaluation carried out by . In this article it would be stated that the full evaluation report-which will very soon be published by the Department-will be made available on application to the Department offered to carry out Western blot analysis on some of the sera examined by Biotech on behalf of the Department.
10. The Chairman would contact members individually about the date of the next meeting which would be held when there was more data to consider.