

Centre for Infections



Mr D Tullis,
Solicitor to the Penrose Enquiry
44 Drumshough Gardens
Edinburgh
EH3 7SW

25th June 2010

Dear Mr Tullis,

Thank you for your letters of the 20th May and 22nd June 2010.

Please accept my apologies for the delay in replying.

In principal, we could repeat the survival analysis for the UK cohort; this would give us survival information for those individuals who were traced during the national HCV lookback programme, 21 years after exposure. However, it is difficult for me to predict when or whether we will be in a position to undertake this additional work until the impact of the current major organizational change (post new government) is clearer. I am aware that Lord Penrose intends to publish a preliminary report in August 2010, and I know that we would not be able to undertake this work before then. In principal, I would be happy to repeat this work, but I do not think this would be possible in the next six months.

In the interim, it may be helpful to know that a *preliminary* survival analysis with censoring of data at the end of 2007 (~ 19 years after exposure), found mortality from liver disease in this cohort to be 3.1% after 19 years of follow-up, with a significant excess in cases (4.0%) compared to controls (1.5%). Overall, while survival was found to be poorer in cases than controls, this difference was not significant suggesting that HCV infection did not have a great impact on all-cause mortality after 19 years of infection. At least 30% of the cases who died directly from liver disease were also known to have consumed excess alcohol, but this is likely to be an underestimate. I must stress that this analysis is preliminary and has not been submitted for publication, but it may be helpful.

I have spoken to Dr Soldan and I think it is unlikely that we would repeat/update the modelling work published in 2002.

I hope this is of some help to you.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Helen Harris BSc PhD FFPH
Research Associate/Clinical Scientist - Epidemiology

Immunisation, Hepatitis and Blood Safety Department
Health Protection Agency, Centre for Infections
61 Colindale Avenue, London NW9 5EQ

☎ Direct Line: [REDACTED] ☎ [REDACTED]

Pager: [REDACTED]

cc Dr Kate Soldan, HPA CfI.