

Extract from

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## Blood clotting agent blamed as 2 die of Aids and 2 more cases reported

By Andrew Veitch,  
Medical Correspondent

Two more Aids cases have been confirmed in Britain, and two more patients have died.

The new cases — bringing the total to 28 — are reported in the *Lancet* today by Dr Spence Galbraith, director of the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre, in London. The Department of Health reported the deaths, which brings the total to 12.

The victims include two haemophiliacs, one of whom died, who are thought to have contracted the disease from contaminated supplies of Factor VIII, the blood clotting agent, imported from US.

The risk of haemophiliacs developing the disease are put into perspective today by Dr

Peter Jones, director of the Newcastle upon Tyne haemophilia centre.

He calculates, in a leading article in the *British Medical Journal*, that the incidence of Aids among haemophiliacs here and in the US is about 0.8 per thousands.

Dr Jones adds, however, that since no Factor VIII can be guaranteed Aids-free, alternatives should be used to treat very young severely-affected children, and older people with mild forms of haemophilia.

Fears among British specialists that Aids arrived from the US two years ago and may reach epidemic proportions next year, are born out today by a report from doctors at West Germany's federal Aids working group headquarters in

Berlin.

So far 44 cases have been registered and 14 have died, they write in the *Lancet*. Clusters of cases have been identified in Munich, Frankfurt and Berlin.

They warn: "These data indicate . . . that the epidemic is now spreading within the German homosexual community and may increase exponentially. The incubation period of Aids infection suggests that the increase will parallel that observed in 1981-82 in the US, but with a time lag of 1½ years."

Aids — acquired immune deficiency syndrome — destroys the body's defences against infection; 2,753 cases have been confirmed in the US, and 1,128 people have died.