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INTERIM REPORT on survey of HTLVIII antibody in haemophiliacs
in U.K.

Following the request for information on HTLVIII antibody status of patients attending the 109 Haemophilia Centres in the U.K., we received reports from 81 (74%) centres. Four centres said they could not co-operate because of the problem of confidentiality but 3 said they would try to provide information later.

Results

A total of 2,570 patients have been tested. The diagnosis in those patients and the HTLVIII antibody results are shown in table 1 along with total number of patients with Haemophilia A, Haemophilia B or von Willebrand's disease in the national register and treated during 1984. From this table it can be calculated that to date approximately 88%, 81% and 71% of Haemophilia A, Haemophilia B and von Willebrand's patients treated in 1984 have been tested for HTLVIII antibody.

A detailed analysis of results according to age and severity grouping is shown in table 2.

Forty-four per cent of Haemophilia A patients tested were found to have HTLVIII antibody. If severe Haemophilia A (<2% factor VIII) is considered separately the prevalence of antibody is 59%. The figure rises from 6% for children <5 years to reach a maximum of 68% in the age group 10-14 years and 20-29 years and then falls off in the over 50 years of age.

In the case of Haemophilia A patients with factor VIII levels in the range 2-10% the overall prevalence of HTLVIII antibody is 21% with an unexpectedly high figure of 23% for the <5 year age group when compared with severely affected patients. This may simply be a reflection of the small number in this group.

The prevalence of HTLVIII antibody in patients suffering from Christmas disease is much lower than in Haemophilia A patients and stands at 6% of those tested. In the case of severely affected Haemophilia B patients the figure is only a little higher at 8% of those tested.

In view of the recent public concern about haemophilic boys who are HTLVIII antibody positive attending school, we have attempted to predict the number of children who might be HTLVIII antibody positive were they all to be tested (Table 3). According to those calculations we might expect to find a total of 320 haemophilic children who are HTLVIII antibody positive. The majority of them would be in the severely affected group of patients.

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Table 1

Result of Survey August 1985

Diagnosis	Number of Patients Tested	Number Positive	% Positive	In Reg Treated 1984
Haemophilia A	1,994	873	44	4,918 2,277
Haemophilia B	316	20	6	896 391
Haemophilia A Carriers	35	Nil	Nil	
Haemophilia B Carriers	7	Nil	Nil	
Von Willebrand's	215	11	5	1,725 302
Acquired Haem. A	1	1	-	
Combined Haem. A + B	1	1	-	
F.S.F.	1	Nil	Nil	
TOTAL	2,570	906	35	

Haem. A. in 1980 - 1985

Table 2
Analysis of prevalence of HTLVIII antibody and of Severity of Coagulation Defects and Age of Patients included in August 1985 Survey

Age (Years)	≤2			2-10			F.VIII/IX Level >10			Not known			Total		
	Patients tested	No. +	% +	Patients tested	No. +	% +	Patients tested	No. +	% +	Patients tested	No. +	% +	Patients tested	No. +	% +
Haem. A															
≤5	33	2	6	13	3	23	2	0	0	3	1	33	51	6	12
5-9	87	28	32	44	5	11	12	0	0	0	0	0	143	33	23
10-14	103	70	68	46	16	35	19	2	11	1	100	169	89	53	
15-19	163	106	65	55	16	29	23	1	4	0	0	241	123	51	
20-29	340	231	68	115	24	21	44	3	7	5	2	40	504	260	52
30-39	232	151	65	75	15	20	37	3	8	3	0	0	347	169	49
40-49	148	91	61	52	13	25	28	3	11	2	0	0	230	107	47
50-59	85	43	51	40	4	10	23	2	9	1	0	0	149	49	33
60-69	47	16	34	41	8	20	21	1	5	2	1	50	111	26	23
70+	15	3	20	21	4	19	8	3	38	0	0	0	44	10	23
Not known	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	50	5	1	20
TOTAL	1,254	741	59	504	108	21	217	18	8	19	6	32	1,994	873	44
Haem. B															
≤5	6	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	13	0	0
5-9	17	0	0	8	1	13	3	0	0	0	0	0	28	1	4
10-14	12	0	0	12	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	28	0	0
15-19	22	2	9	13	1	8	5	1	20	0	0	0	40	4	10
20-29	46	7	15	31	0	0	4	0	0	1	0	0	82	7	9
30-39	32	1	3	7	1	14	5	0	0	0	0	0	44	2	5
40-49	16	1	6	8	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	27	1	4
50-59	14	2	14	12	2	17	4	0	0	1	0	0	31	4	13
60-69	5	1	20	9	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	16	1	6
70+	2	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0
Not known	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0
TOTAL	172	14	8	109	5	5	29	1	3	6	0	0	316	20	6

16 Haem. B. only 2 N.M.L.

Table 3

Predicted number of haemophilia A children in the U.K. who might be HTLVIII antibody positive

Age (years)	Factor VIII (% AN)			Total
	<2	2-10	>10	
<5	6 (105)	8 (35)	0 (8)	14 (148)
5-9	41 (127)	7 (64)	0 (20)	48 (211)
10-14	86 (127)	21 (60)	3 (29)	110 (216)
15-19	125 (192)	23 (79)	0 (19)	148 (290)
Total	258 (551)	59 (238)	3 (76)	320 (865)

The above figures were obtained by taking the number of patients treated in each severity and age group in 1984 (shown in brackets above) and applying to those numbers the HTLVIII antibody prevalence rate found for the individual severity and age groupings (see Table 2). It is assumed that those not yet tested are at the same risk as those already tested.

Range of toxicity - all from Rejoice in 8 - 65%.

Dr Fitch says in Brighton Children's Hosp,

about 60% of children have seroconverted.

Swales, 3/44 (67%)

Mitchell, ^{Leeds} says ✓ low incidence in ^{Leeds, Don's} ^{North, Staff}

Glasgow, Children, c 40%.

Advice to Schools? to clear out transfusion.

MMWL June 28 1985 (USA school).