

→ JDC & R Perry

EDINBURGH AND SOUTH-EAST SCOTLAND REGIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE 0012



REGIONAL CENTRE
ROYAL INFIRMARY
EDINBURGH EH3 9HB

Copy to PE

Telephones
Department: 031-229 2585
Telex 72163

JG/DS

January 25, 1984

Dr. F.E. Boulton,
Deputy Director,
Blood Transfusion Service,
Royal Infirmary,
EDINBURGH.

Dear Dr. Boulton:

Following our discussion about possible reactions to intravenous sorbitol, I have attempted to find out what is known on this subject. As you know, sorbitol has been used as a source of calories in intravenous nutrition, but it appears that it is no longer used in this way. The reason for this was the discovery that nearly half of an intravenous dose of sorbitol is excreted unchanged in the urine: it is therefore of little nutritional value. I am not aware of any clinical problems with sorbitol in this setting.

Sorbitol metabolism appears to be implicated in the development of diabetic peripheral neuropathy, but extraneous sorbitol does not gain access to nerves in significant quantities, and the representative of Pfizer with whom I spoke did not know of any evidence that long term sorbitol administration might be harmful.

It seems, therefore, that intravenous sorbitol is safe, and unlikely to be the cause of the transfusion reaction which you described.

PROTEIN FRACTIONATION CENTRE

Received: 20/7/84	
File No: D111	
Refer to	Action taken
P. Foster ✓	

Yours sincerely,

Jack
Dr. J. Gillon

Jack has also extensively searched Index Medicus with no significant information.