

HCV 145

EDINBURGH & SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

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FEB/AB

21 February 1990

Professor J D Cash
National Medical Director
SNBTS Headquarters
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HCV

Dear John

Please find enclosed a rather haste transcription of my notes of the HCV Symposium early this month.

Could I just add that in spite of obvious difficulties with the current Ortho Elisa assay (susceptibility to "stickiness", unreliability of predictive value with heat treated samples, etc) I have developed a very strong feeling that the screening of donors for HCV antibodies should be introduced at the earliest possible opportunity. This is not because of the "science", but because there appears to be little doubt that people have contracted HCV as a result of transfusions which they would not have received had those transfusions been screened for HCV antibody. Furthermore there are apparently five known cases of HCC due to PTH. The reason, therefore, from my proposing this view is actually one based on future litigation. I am pretty convinced that the NBTS and SNBTS will find legal action taken against them in about 10 years' time from persons who have sustained post transfusion hepatitis as a result of receiving HCV antibody containing blood which was presumably infectious for HCV at the time.

Kindest regards
Yours sincerely

Dr F E Boulton
CONSULTANT

cc Dr McClelland

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