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JDC/MAC

Dr John D Cash
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Dear John

FACTOR VIII CONCENTRATE : PLASMA QUALITY

I thank you for your letter of 6th October making comment on mine of 30th September and, immediately, it is clear that I have not been explicit.

While I agree that the crushing procedure is a disaster area it is one under urgent review but, in any event, is not nearly as serious as the figures represent. It is extremely difficult to sample at this stage because one is dealing with a non-homogeneous mixture of which at least a substantial part of the factor VIII activity is concentrated in the cryoprecipitate granules. Therefore, the values which we obtain are always much lower than the true value but they do have some relationship. For example, with a pool value of 0.7 U/ml one would expect to obtain 0.3 or 0.4 U/ml of a sample obtained from the crushed ice and a slightly higher value from the thawed plasma prior to centrifugation. This extrapolation is for guidance only and is far from exact. Nevertheless the figures obtained in this instance are low.

As for the values obtained from 18 hour old plasma it has been our experience that these differ only slightly from that obtained with six hour plasma and on "good days" lie in the range of 0.7 to 0.8 U/ml. Since/

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Since the process losses are disproportionately high when the plasma value is low it is my personal opinion that there is little value in processing plasma having less than 0.4 U/ml and at 0.5 we are getting very close to this margin.

The main purpose of carrying out a random sampling procedure for each pool of plasma reduced to process is so that the data obtained can be returned to the regional centres concerned. I understand from Peter Foster that this information is returned to the regions via the working party system which he set up. I presume that this data returns to Dr Pepper at Edinburgh.

The prospect of increasing further the amount of data which is provided in our quarterly returns is something which I find pretty daunting but, I suspect, inevitable. However, I would be unwilling to make any serious attempt to do this without additional clerical help but, as we have discussed in the past, this is an investment which would be of tremendous value. We need at PFC to set up some kind of material accounting system to provide the data required and, perhaps, to institute the policy of returning unto the regions that from whence it came.

With kindest regards

Yours sincerely

JOHN G WATT
Scientific Director

