

Table 7

TRANSFUSION RECIPIENTS

Category	Region	Number Tested	Initially Reactive	Repeatedly Reactive
Haemophiliacs -	Glasgow	146	92	92 (63%)
Home Dialysis Patients -	Glasgow	64	2	2 (3.1%)
Intravenous Immunoglobulin Recipients -	Aberdeen	11	0	0
	Glasgow	23	0	0
	Edinburgh	1	0	0
	TOTAL	35	0	0
Multi Transfused Patients -	Dundee	23	0	0
	Inverness	10	1	1
	TOTAL	33	1	1 (3.0%)

Dilution curves suggested that very few donors have particularly strong levels of circulating antibody. Therefore, the use of the Ortho test in screening products at fractionation centres may be of limited value.

From the limited evaluation carried out, the Ortho HCV-ELISA test has been shown to have an acceptable specificity. The apparent diposition in the sensitivity of HCV kit when compared to the De kit is worrying. This underlines the need to check the sensitivity and specificity of kits before routine use. If batch variations are continued to be seen a weekly positive Quality Control sample may be required as a "minimum" cut-off. The test itself was "user friendly" but in large scale donor testing major consideration should possibly be given to automated sampling.

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