

Reetan Patel

Subject: Comments on Interferon/Ribavirin for mild HCV appraisal

-----Original Message-----

From: M Makris

Sent: 05 December 2005 23:21

To: Alana Miller

Subject: Comments on Interferon/Ribavirin for mild HCV appraisal

Dear Ms Miller

Thank you for asking me to comment on the assessment report. I am responding as the representative of the UK Haemophilia Centre Doctors Organisation and the Haemophilia Alliance. The report makes passing reference to patients with inherited bleeding disorders. At present I feel that true severity of HCV can only be assessed by histology and as you can appreciate this is not readily available for our group of patients. Not only is the potential of liver biopsy complications higher but each biopsy requires a 3 day inpatient stay and costs >£5,000 in clotting factor concentrate. Although this NICE assessment deals with mild HCV, I believe the decision on anti HCV treatment in patients with bleeding disorders should not be based on histology. Irrespective of the conclusion reached by the appraisal committee, I feel that patients with bleeding disorders should be treated as a special case. The statement in the last NICE report on management of moderate/severe HCV that patients with bleeding disorders can be managed without a liver biopsy has proved very useful and should be repeated in the current final report.

Yours sincerely

Dr Michael Makris

Director

Sheffield Haemophilia and Thrombosis Centre

Delivered via MessageLabs
