KEYNOTE SYMPOSIUM

Hemophilia Therapy: A Challenge to the World Blood Resources

THE PROBLEM. HOW MUCH IS REQUIRED? P. Schiff. Commonwealth Serum Laboratories, Melbourne, Australia.

Haemophilia is an international health problem, and the supply of adequate amounts of Factor VIII to treat sufferers continues to tax the minds of all sections of the health care industry. Before the scope of the total problem can be defined and solutions proposed, attempts must be made to quantify likely demands at the individual, national and international levels. This paper looks at the known incidence of haemophilia, reviews currently accepted treatment schedules and their effects on Factor VIII requirements, and describes therapeutic materials currently available for the management of bleeding episodes.

HAEMOPHILIA THERAPY: A VIEW FROM THE THIRD WORLD. C.A. Páez. Hospital San Juan de Dios, San José, Costa Rica, Central America.

Analysis of the problems facing haemophilia therapy in under developed countries shows high cost of imported replacement material, lack of organized blood transfusion services and exploitation of indigenous population by commercial companies as the main drawbacks. The current situation may be largely improved by the creation of national blood transfusion programmes. Economical and political stability and a social security system, already existing in Costa Rica, makes a national blood transfusion programme based on voluntary blood donation an attainable goal.