A. Factor VIII

FACTOR VIII SUPPLY: THE SWORD OF DAMOCLES IN A NATIONAL SELF-SUFFICIENT PLASMA PROCUREMENT PROGRAM

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The Belgian Red Cross blood- and plasmapheresis program provides yearly 12,000 - 13,000 liters of plasma per 10^6 inhabitants. This amount allows to cover all the national needs of plasma derivatives.

Our program allows adequate hemophilia A treatment, even on a prophylactic basis and (or) on home-treatment. Up to 50,000 units per patient are available as the yearly mean under the form of lyophilized cryoprecipitate.

By refusing this aid and requiring only highly purified concentrate the availability drops to a mean of 15,000 units per patient per year, which is insufficient.

The hemophilia A patients and their physicians must be aware of the fact that permanent national self-sufficiency of the life-saving drug is their best guarantee for a normal life. The abuse of highly purified factor VIII concentrates dislocates even the best national self-sufficient plasma procurement programs.

Note: abstract only, manuscript not available. (eds)

C. T. Smit Sibinga et al. (eds.), *Bloodtransfusion and Problems of Bleeding*

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