

Statutory Approvals Committee - minutes

Centre 0044 (The Centre for Reproductive and Genetic Health) – PGD application for Abetalipoproteinemia (also known as acanthocytosis, microsomal triglyceride transfer protein deficiency and Bassen-Kornweig syndrome), OMIM #200100

Thursday, 29 October 2015

HFEA, Finsbury Tower, 103-105 Bunhill Row, London, EC1Y 8HF

Committee members	David Archard (Chair) Rebekah Dundas (Deputy Chair) Sue Price Margaret Gilmore Anthony Rutherford	
Members of the Executive	Trent Fisher Sam Hartley	Secretary Head of Governance and Licensing
External adviser	Dr Alan Fryer	
Legal Adviser	Graham Miles	Blake Morgan
Observers	Anna Quinn	Scientific Policy Officer

Declarations of interest:

- Members of the panel declared that they had no conflicts of interest in relation to this item.

The panel had before it:

- 8th edition of the HFEA Code of Practice
- Standard licensing and approvals pack for committee members

The following papers were considered by the committee:

- executive summary
- PGD application form
- redacted peer review
- Genetic Alliance opinion

1. Consideration of application

- 1.1. The committee had regard to its decision tree. The committee noted that the centre is licensed to carry out PGD. The committee was also satisfied that the centre has experience of carrying out PGD and that generic patient information about its PGD programme and associated consent forms had previously been received by the HFEA.
- 1.2. The committee noted that the condition being applied for is not on the approved PGD condition list.
- 1.3. The committee noted that the proposed purpose of testing the embryos was as set out in paragraph 1ZA(1)(b) of schedule 2 of the Act, i.e. 'where there is a particular risk that the embryo may have any gene, chromosome or mitochondrion abnormality, establishing whether it has that abnormality or any other gene, chromosome or mitochondrion abnormality'.
- 1.4. The committee noted that the condition is inherited in an autosomal recessive pattern and there is a 1 in 4 chance of an embryo being affected with the condition where both parents are carriers.
- 1.5. The committee noted that the condition is a rare disorder which affects the ability to absorb dietary fats, cholesterol, and fat soluble vitamins. This can result in failure to gain weight and grow, impaired function of the nervous system, poor muscle coordination, eye disorders causing vision loss, abnormal star shaped red blood cells, diarrhoea and fatty foul smelling stools.
- 1.6. The committee noted that the condition demonstrates complete penetrance. Symptoms will appear within the first few months of life.
- 1.7. The committee noted that there is no curative treatment for the condition, but that treatment for symptoms that present.
- 1.8. The committee noted that the application is consistent with the Peer Review.
- 1.9. The committee welcomed the advice of its specialist advisor, Dr Alan Fryer, who confirmed that the condition is as described in the papers.

2. Decision

- 2.1. The committee considered that the condition is serious due to constellation of symptoms and lack of any curative treatment.
- 2.2. The committee had regard to its explanatory note and noted that on the basis of the information presented, given the condition's worst symptoms, it was satisfied that there is a significant risk that a person with the abnormality will have or develop a serious physical or mental disability, a serious illness or any other serious medical condition. The committee was therefore satisfied that the condition meets the criteria for testing under paragraph 1ZA(1)(b) and (2) of Schedule 2 to the Act.
- 2.3. The committee agreed to authorise the testing of embryos for Abetalipoproteinemia (also known as acanthocytosis, microsomal triglyceride transfer protein deficiency and Bassen-Kornweig syndrome), OMIM #200100.

3. Chair's signature

3.1. I confirm this is a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DWA' followed by a stylized flourish.

Name

David Archard

Date

11 November 2015