

Statutory Approvals Committee - minutes

Centre 0044 (The Centre for Reproductive and Genetic Health) – PGD application for Porencephaly 1 OMIM #175780

Thursday, 26 November 2015

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

Committee members	David Archard (Chair) Rebekah Dundas (Deputy Chair) Sue Price Anthony Rutherford Bishop Lee Rayfield	
Members of the Executive	Trent Fisher Sam Hartley	Secretary Head of Governance and Licensing
External adviser	Professor Mary Porteous	
Legal Adviser	Jane Williams	Mills & Reeve
Observers	None	

Declarations of interest:

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

The committee 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 dominant pattern and there is a 1 in 2 chance of an embryo being affected with the condition where one parent is affected.
- 1.5. The committee noted that the condition is a rare brain disorder with local softening of the brain due to haemorrhage, inflammation or cysts in one or both sides of the brain. This can cause stroke-like episodes.
- 1.6. The committee noted that there is a range of sequelae of the stokes including learning disability, seizures, cerebral palsy, abnormal fluid in the brain, spasticity or paralysis and visual impairment.
- 1.7. The committee noted that if a family has an affected child then the condition would demonstrate a very high penetrance within that family.
- 1.8. The committee noted that there is no curative treatment for the condition; treatment is purely symptomatic and supportive.
- 1.9. The committee noted that the application is consistent with the Peer Review.
- 1.10. The committee welcomed the advice of its specialist advisor, Professor Mary Porteous, 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 wide range of severe 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 Porencephaly 1, OMIM #175780.

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

10/12/2015