

MUSGROVE LEUKAEMIC GROUP SOMERSET

Raising funds for the Benefit of Patients in Somerset

Founded 1978 - Registered Charity No 1036580

Our Latest Appeal 2007-2009

Item 1 - 2 VS-800 Mindray Vital Signs monitor for NIBP and SpO₂ monitoring

This piece of equipment is used to monitor the patient's heart rate, blood pressure and level of oxygen circulating around the bloodstream. It means that they can be permanently placed in the oncology cubicles therefore cutting the risk of infection in these very vulnerable groups of patients.

Item 2 - Research Update 2007-2009

Following the purchase of the real time PCR machine by the MLGS in 2006 the laboratory has concentrated mainly on the establishment of the assay for detection of t(9;22) in Chronic Myeloid Leukaemia (CML) as at present this work comprises the bulk of the testing being sent away to other hospitals. In CML two genes, bcr-abl, have become fused and it is the fused gene product bcr-abl that is used as a marker of the Leukaemic cells. Only a few months into this work good progress has already been made with the assay. Plasmid controls have been produced to enable quantitation of the fused bcr-abl gene transcript levels, and have been validated as standards for this method. Methods of RNA extraction have been improved to increase the reliability and sensitivity of the method and the patient samples are now being run through the assay. We are currently monitoring samples in parallel to Derriford Hospital in order to obtain comparisons of detection level to ensure a smooth transition in the transfer of test between sites. We are confident that this assay will be able to be carried out at Musgrove within the next few months. This will ensure a quicker turn around time enabling clinicians to make treatment decisions in a timelier manner.

Item 3 - Support Complementary Holistic Therapist

To continue to support the services of an Holistic Therapist to provide aromatherapy sessions primarily to in-patients of the Haematology & Oncology Unit. This therapy supports the whole person, emotionally and physically, through the combined effects of gentle massage and subsequent inhalation by the use of diluted essential plant oils. This can bring relief from the symptoms of disease and the side effects of treatment, helping to ease pain, stress and anxiety and enhancing the well being of the patient.

Total Cost £90,000

Thank you for any help you can provide us with