

SaBTO

Advisory Committee on the
Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs

Area 104 Richmond House, Department of Health,
79 Whitehall, London SW1A 2NS

By email

31st July 2013

Dear Colleague,

West Nile Virus and solid organ transplantation

We would like to bring to your notice a Position Statement published today by the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs (SaBTO), providing advice on West Nile Virus associated with solid organ transplantation. We believe this will be of interest to many of your members.

SaBTO's advice deals with the eventuality that an organ donor whose organs have been transplanted is then found to have been infected with West Nile Virus. In recent years, West Nile Virus has been found in countries increasingly close to the UK, some of them popular with travellers, so this situation could arise in the future although West Nile Virus is not currently found in the UK population.

SaBTO has published a Position Statement which includes information about the disease, evidence on its transmission by transplantation and a recommended course of action to follow if a donor whose organs have been transplanted is found to have been infected.

The Position Statement can be found on SaBTO's website, at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/west-nile-virus-and-solid-organ-transplantation-sabto-statement>.

We would be grateful for your assistance in bringing SaBTO's Position Statement to the attention of your members. May we thank you in advance for your help in this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Professor John Forsythe
Chair, SaBTO, and
Lead Clinician for Organ Donation and



Professor Kate Gould
SaBTO West Nile Virus lead and
Consultant Microbiologist

Transplantation in Scotland