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## Michelmores Medical Negligence News

### Further concerns over vCJD

In: [General](#) On: 18/12/2009

Guardian articles warns of a vCJD ticking time bomb

Michelmores clinical negligence team provides a link to a further article on the recent development in vCJD story - click [here](#)

It was previously thought that genetic makeup leads to an increased risk of contracting vCJD in some people. Patients who are MM homozygous seem to be more susceptible to infection by exposure to the prions contained in infected meat and meat products. However, this recent case of a 30-year old man who died of vCJD shows that people who are MV heterozygous can also contract vCJD, but for them incubation of the disease takes a lot longer.

Michelmores' Laurence Vick says "we are on the cusp of a potentially very serious second wave of vCJD cases. Clearly the science behind vCJD infection is at an early stage. We cannot currently test for vCJD in living people."

"Aside from exposure through consumption of meat and meat products, a number of Michelmores' clients have potentially been exposed to vCJD prions through contaminated blood used to produce treatments for haemophilia. Certain haemophiliacs have been warned by their treating doctors of an increased risk of vCJD due to treatment with products made from the blood of a vCJD victim."

"In a grim echo of the previous contaminated blood scandals involving HIV and Hepatitis C it appears that haemophiliacs may have been exposed to yet another blood-borne agent. It is imperative that a test be made available as soon as possible in order to give haemophiliacs peace of mind."

"It will be important to be sure that lessons have been learned from those previous contaminated blood scandals, particularly with regard to transparency of letting patients know what has happened, irrespective of any issues of fault."

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