

BSE AND VETERINARY MEDICINES

1. We are urgently reviewing all users of bovine tissues, sera, etc. in veterinary medicines to determine what risks exist in relation to BSE, what action we need to take under the Medicines Act and what advice we can offer to manufacturers.
2. We have identified one problem over where we are unable to act and this is the use of gonadotrophins in embryo transfer work. Some veterinary surgeons are quite legally using this exemption from the Medicines Act contained in Section 9(2) to prepare gonadotrophins from pituitary glands from various species, including cattle. These hormones are used to stimulate superovulation in donor cows.
3. The extraction is from a pool of pituitary glands collected from abattoirs and the process used is unlikely to have any effect on the BSE agent. Hormones extracted from human pituitary glands have been responsible for a small number of cases of Creutzfeldt Jacob disease in man.
4. We need to address this problem. It is possible that control could be exercised under the Foot and Mouth Disease (Sera and Glandular) Products Order.
5. It is just possible that this procedure is caught up by other existing medicines legislation i.e. 81/851/EEC.



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