

## Report of Amino Acid workshop Bristol November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2005

- **Attendance**

The meeting was well attended with 60 delegates attended the meeting – all Metbionet labs were represented.

- **Acknowledgements**

The organisers would like to thank Dr Philip Mayne for chairing the day and leading the discussion at the end of the afternoon and all the speakers. All sessions were well received. All speakers have agreed to have their presentations on the Metbionet website – to be arranged.

- **The programme**

Morning:

Where are we now? (A Report from the Metbionet Amino Acid Questionnaire)

Where should we be going? (A report from the Metbionet Amino Acids working group)

- Amino acid repertoire required (disorders and nutrition).
- Amino acid methods past and future.
- Clinical indications for amino acid analysis (an audit of amino acid requests and interviews with requesting physicians).
- Monitoring patients with amino acid disorders (including a review of monitoring practices in different centres).

Afternoon

CSF amino acid analysis

UKNEQAS interpretive scheme

Reporting of amino acids views presented by:-

- Clinical Biochemist
- Dietician
- Requesting physician

- **Issues highlighted**

While a number of issues were raised throughout the day the following were highlighted as particularly important areas that might be addressed via Metbionet:-

1. Small workload in some laboratories
2. 1D amino acid TLC still used despite recommendations in past against it's use.
3. The need for qualitative EQA scheme emphasised.
4. Reference ranges
  - a. Large variability between labs
  - b. Variety of sources (literature and local data)
  - c. Different subdivisions by age
  - d. Little standardisation of pre-analytical variables
5. Monitoring patients
  - a. Large variability in frequency of testing between centres
  - b. Variability in target values for different conditions
  - c. Again pre-analytical variables important but inconsistent

- **Proposals**

- Formalise support of Metbionet labs for their local laboratories with small workloads.
- Metbionet to continue to work with UKNEQAS to resurrect qualitative amino acid scheme and support the cognitive EQA scheme.
- Set up a Metbionet amino acid working group to produce guidelines for practice which could include, reference ranges, requesting and reporting. To be discussed at Metbionet meeting.
- Metbionet to engage with BIMDG regarding standardising practice for monitoring patients. ? Approach through metabolic networks.

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