

POET'S CORNER

A challenging chat

Patricia Bell

At some stage or other, most haemophilia nurses will be faced with the pregnancy of an obligate carrier. As Trish Bell recounts, this can make for a difficult conversation and sleepless nights

This poem starts in mid November
A baby due in late December.
I had planned for a conversation
That filled me with some trepidation.
The topic of which could have been a
barrier
An expectant mother who's an obligate
carrier.
There are things the parents needed to
know
As their baby boy, up he will grow.

I listened to both while each had their say
(we're dealing with severe haemophilia A).
This rare condition affecting The Few
And chances of inheritance 1 in 2.
I gently told Daddy just what it would
mean
When I explained all about this
troublesome gene!

But a positive picture I ensured I did paint
Especially when Dad looked like he would
faint.

I avoided the tricky bits like arthropathy
Affecting the joints like the ankle, the knee.
And even when there was a lengthy pause
I definitely avoided inhibitors.

I had all the leaflets and lots of info
To help with my teaching before they got
up to go.
There's one thing I mentioned – a priority
I told them about The Haemophilia
Society.

But I needn't have worried our chat it went
well
And Mum through December continued
to swell.
We'd taken precautions to prepare for the
birth
A time of excitement, anticipation and
mirth.

A plan of care was unfurled
For the arrival of Junior into the world.
A cord blood sample, to the lab it did go
And we'd know if he's affected, yes or no.



Fast forward to Christmas Eve – all was
quite quiet
Suddenly the phone rang and caused a
riot.
I'd had lots of tea – almost two litres
And mum was in labour – about three
centimetres!
I hoped when I woke upon Christmas
morn
Junior would be here – having been safely
born.

Reader bear with me I don't want to
offend
I expect you'll be wondering – How did
this all end?
So this answer – to tell you I have elected
Thank goodness – this baby, he wasn't
affected.

But it could have been a whole different
ride
My feelings in that case are best kept
inside.

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The Journal of Haemophilia Practice

An open-access journal for sharing experience
in the care of people with bleeding disorders

www.haemjournal.com

