some of them were carrying AIDS antibodies.

Dr. Lustig said: "If individual patients want to know where they stand I shall tell them.

Patients were strongly advised that they should wear contraception sheaths during intercourse to protect their partners from danger.

They were also urged to take every precaution when mixing up their Factor 8 for home injections, and disposing of needles, syringes and plastic gloves.

Proper safety precautions are al- ready in force to protect medical and laboratory staff who are handling the blood at Edinburgh Infirmary.

I was told yesterday by another centre director: "Two centres here in London have had the same experience. Two batches of Factor 8 from Elhree have been contaminated with the AIDS virus."

At St Thomas's Hospital, London, which serves haemophiliacs from SE and SW Thames areas, two patients who received exclusively NHS Factor 8 from Elhree are also carrying the suspected AIDS virus antibodies.

The director of the haemophilia clinic, Dr. John Field, said: "It is going to be hell on earth when this comes out. I am dumping all my commercial Factor 8 from the U.S. in favour of heat treated material.

"The majority of my patients will be getting it within the next three days. It is more difficult psychologically and practi- cally to dump the NHS Factor 8, because if I did that straight away the switch-over would bankrupt hospitals in the area. It will have to be phased out.

"I am not prepared to wait and exposure my patients to the risk. It is a horrible issue and a horrible dilemma."

Recent evidence suggested that NHS Factor 8 which is not heat treated might be contaminated.

"One cannot be sure, and from the patients' point of view it would be better to leave it alone. But I feel sure it is OK," said Dr. Savage.

Dr. Arthur Bloom, at University College, Cardiff, who is chairman of the Haemophilia Centre Directors Organization, said he was aware of these problems with two batches of NHS Factor 8, one produced in Scotland and the other from Elybridge.

He reported that at present time, no risk greater than AIDS. In recent weeks we have been all test overwhemmed by requests for accurate information and action to reduce the risks involved with blood products.

"What we must do at all costs is to try to avoid further spread of the virus. I have just spoken to a mother of a 9-year old girl who is the worst thing to do — it can mean joint damage, ruined lives and the possibility of fatal blood."