

## CHLORAMPHENICOL THERAPY IN GRANULOMA VENEREUM

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Various workers have reported success in the treatment of Granuloma Venereum with chloramphenicol (King, 1964). Jones (1951) and Zises and Smith (1951) reported good results with the drug. Robinson and Cronk (1951) reported the results of chloramphenicol by mouth in 16 patients suffering from Granuloma Venereum. Greenblatt et al (1952) summarised their results with the drug, over a period of 5 years. Rajam and Rangiah (1952) used the drug orally successfully in 18 cases. The present report concerns the results of treatment of 14 cases of the disease with the drug.

### Material and Method

The material comprised 14 cases of Granuloma Venereum seen in JIPMER Hospital, Pondicherry from 1966 to early part of 1970. Ten patients were males and four females. The age of the patients varied from 18 years to 43 years. The duration of the disease was below 6 months in 8 cases and above 6 months in 6. Seven cases were given streptomycin before chloramphenicol; four of these patients were found to be resistant to streptomycin, while three had severe giddiness due to streptomycin. The remaining 7 cases were treated with chloramphenicol because of non-availability of streptomycin.

Chloramphenicol was administered in dosage of 500 milligrams 6 hourly by mouth and the effect observed.

### Observations

All the 14 patients responded to the treatment. Amount of chloramphenicol administered varied from 14 grams to 64 grams with an average of 42 grams. No side-effects were observed. Only one patient could be followed upto 3 years when there was no evidence of recurrence.

### Discussion

Robinson and Cronk (1951) gave chloramphenicol by mouth to 16 patients suffering from Granuloma Venereum, the dosage being 4 grams daily to a total of 20 grams in 4 cases and 40 grams in 12 cases. Results were a little better with the higher dosage, although there were 2 relapses in both groups. In the course of treatment 4 patients developed acute pharyngitis and pain in the hard palate, and in 2 cases the tongue became swollen, red, and painful with complete loss of filiform papillae. Lesions of the tongue, pharynx and palate healed rapidly in all cases after the treatment had been stopped.

Greenblatt et al (1952) treated 46 patients of the disease with chloramphenicol in dosage of 500 milligrams, the average being 36 grams. In 41 cases healing had occurred at the end of treatment during observation after treatment from 1 to 15 months. One patient failed to respond to treatment and 4 failed to return for assessment. Relapse occurred in ten cases, but in all these further treatment proved successful. There were no

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serious toxic effects, but in a few cases mild nausea or dermatitis resulted from treatment.

Rajam and Rangiah (1952) used chloramphenicol by mouth successfully in the treatment of 18 cases of Granuloma Venereum. The dosage was 500 milligrams 6 hourly for 10 days. There were no toxic effects.

In the present study all the patients responded to chloramphenicol but the total average dose is higher than the other studies. There were no toxic effects. The response of the disease to chloramphenicol is quite satisfactory but the use of the drug should be restricted to patients not responding to other antibiotics because of the possibility of the major complications of chloramphenicol therapy.

### Summary

Fourteen patients of Granuloma Venereum responded to chloramphenicol therapy by mouth. The amount of chloramphenicol administered varied from 14 to 64 grams with an average of 42 grams. No side effects were observed. In spite of good response and absence of side effects it is suggested that the use of chloramphenicol in this disease should be restricted to patients not responding to other antibiotics to guard against the major complications of chloramphenicol therapy.

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### TRUE or FALSE ?

All cases of Dermatitis Herpetiformis and associated enteropathy benefit by gluten free diet.

(Answer at Page No. 82)