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Reply

I am thankful to Dr. Lal for taking interest in our article. We have been using oral zinc (220 mg ZnSO₄ per day) in cases of leprosy for more than 2 years and have not come across any side effect, except mild gastric irritation in a few patients.¹ Recently, we have studied the effect of oral zinc therapy on HDL-C and total cholesterol and have found that in the dosage mentioned above, it does not decrease HDL-C levels (unpublished).

Reasons for trying zinc in our cases were : it inhibits DNA polymerase of herpes simplex virus, it inhibits complement dependent immune complex reaction, and it has anti-inflammatory action. The beneficial effect of our regimen could be judged by the fact that there was no recurrence subsequently.

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Reference

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