

“REVERIN” THERAPY IN GRANULOMA VENEREUM

By

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Barton et al (1947) were the first to report on the beneficial therapeutic effects of streptomycin on granuloma venereum. Since then streptomycin has been the drug of choice for this disease (King, 1964). Ramachander et al (1969) were of the opinion that “Reverin” (rolitetracycline) is an ideal drug in the treatment of granuloma venereum. In this communication, the effect of reverin on 11 cases of the disease is reported.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Material consisted of 11 patients of granuloma venereum seen in Jimper-Hospital, Pondicherry during later part of year 1969 and early part of year 1970. The diagnosis was made by demonstrating “Donovan Bodies” in tissue smears of ulcers. Nine patients were males and two females. The age of the patients varied from 20 to 50 years. The duration of disease varied from 1 month to 1 year. Each patient was given 150 milligrams of reverin deep intramuscularly once daily for ten days and effect observed.

OBSERVATIONS

Seven patients showed complete healing of the lesions while four showed partial healing. Out of the patients showing complete healing one showed recurrence after two weeks; three did not show recurrence upto 2 months; one showed no recurrence upto 6 months; two did not turn up for follow up.

Out of the patients showing partial healing, lesions increased in size in 3 in about 3 months and smears from the lesions showed “Donovan Bodies”. One of these three patients was successfully treated with streptomycin. The fourth patient did not come for follow up.

DISCUSSION

“Reverin” is Hoechst brand of rolitetracycline; after intramuscular injection it gives serum concentration about twice as high as obtained with other intramuscular tetracyclines. Ramachander et al (1969) treated 16 patients of granuloma venereum with reverin. Seven of the patients were given reverin in doses of 150 milligrams intramuscularly twice a day for 10 to 20 days while the remaining 9 patients were given the drug in doses of 150 milligrams once a day for 10 days. All their patients responded well to the therapy. From their study, they were of the opinion that reverin is an ideal drug in the treatment of granuloma venereum.

Present study does not support the findings of Ramachander et al (1969). Only 6 out of the eleven patients (i. e. 54%) showed good response. One of the

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patients, who did not respond to reverin, responded to streptomycin. Taking into consideration poor response shown with reverin in dosage of 150 milligrams once daily for ten days, the drug is not recommended for treatment of granuloma venereum in this dosage. Further this dosage of reverin may suppress associated syphilitic infection leading to late manifestations of syphilis.

SUMMARY

Eleven patients of granuloma venereum were treated with reverin in doses of 150 milligrams once daily for 10 days. Only six patients (i. e. 54%) showed good response to the drug. The drug is not recommended for treatment of the disease in this dosage because of poor response and fear of suppression of associated syphilitic infection.

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