

Studies on Cutaneous Leishmaniasis in India - II. Behaviour of *Leishmania Tropica* strain isolated from dogs in various experimental animals : Krishna Mohan, J. C. Suri and Meera Madan, (National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi-110006), The J Com Dis, 5:143, 1973.

The present communication deals with different aspects of experimental infection with *Leishmania Tropica* isolated from two naturally infected dogs captured during an outbreak of cutaneous leishmaniasis in Bikaner, Rajasthan. Intradermal route of infection on the ears of monkeys, dogs, mice and hamsters was found to be successful. The mice and hamsters suffered a sustained infection. The present strain of *L. Tropica* appeared to be comparatively more virulent for mice than for hamsters. The strain seemed to share certain important characters of *L. Tropica Major*. Invasion of spleen and liver was observed in mice, only when they were infected intracardially. Intra-peritoneal route of infection proved unsuccessful for mice and hamsters. White rats were found to be refractory to infection. Gerbils proved feebly susceptible.

Urticaria - Present concepts of etiology and management, T. R. Kapur and O. P. Singh (Classified Specialist (Derm & Ven) Military Hosp, Pathankot), Indian Med Gazette, 15:228, 1975.

Urticaria is a common disorder which can be caused by drugs, foods, inhalants, friction, pressure, cold, heat, sunlight or emotional upsets. Judgment and constant awareness are needed to detect the causative factor. Management of these cases have been discussed.

T-strain Mycoplasma in Human Genital Tract Infections, T. R. Kapur et al (Classified Specialist (Derm & Ven) Military Hosp, Pathankot), Indian J Med Res, 64:1620, 1976.

Fifty-three men suffering from non-specific urethritis and 68 women with leucorrhoea were studied along with suitable controls. T-strain mycoplasma was suspected to play an aetiological role in nonspecific urethritis in males and non-specific leucorrhoea in females from the high isolation rates and epidemiological evidence. A high correlation of (positive and negative) cultures in 119 (95.9%) of 124 couples studied suggested a venereal mode of transmission of T-strain mycoplasma.

BOOK REVIEW

Social and Health Aspects of Sexually Transmitted Diseases, a W. H. O. publication.

S. T. D. Control – Indian Commentary on an International Publication.

The Public Health Papers, No. 65 in the Series, a W. H. O. release, entitled “Social and Health Aspects of Sexually Transmitted Diseases” streamlines principles of control measures.

The mini document comprising 210 paragraphs in 54 pages and edited by a galaxy of global experts in the field of Venereology which now may be termed as S. T. D.-ology, subtends epidemiologic, laboratory, clinical and therapeutic angles and is justifiably an excellent prescription of a saturated solution for solving the debacle of S. T. D. explosion, an admittedly inevitable offshoot of measures to mitigate or forestal population explosion.

The provocation for the production of this brochure appears to have stemmed out of startling revelations by statistics, indicative of high incidence of S. T. D., collected and collated by the W. H. O. from different countries, through ‘*notification*’ numerically or by name or even by confidential reporting by name – a procedure not yet statutorily implemented in our country.

Assessed thus, gonococcal infection of them all, has been observed to have registered an increase of it in five continents. Non-gonococcal genital infection, a close imitator of Gonorrhoea in both sexes, has stolen a march over gonococcal infection. Early infectious syphilis is in spate. Chancroid, Lymphogranuloma Venereum and Granuloma Venereum are still prevalent; especially the last that for some reason has become eponymous with refractory South Indian V. D.

This problem is directed to be solved. Notwithstanding the available statistical projection of resurgence of S. T. D., it is the calculated judgment of Venereologists, that overt V. D. / STD is very much *under reported*; what is worse, covert VD/STD lies low beneath the horizon of clinical recognition, in an asymptomatic phase in the female of the homosapiens, constituting a serious threat to the body of her person and menace to the spousing male sexual counterpart, not to speak of the disasters overtaking the offspring, should the woman beget any.

It is interesting that after decades of debate the traditional nomenclature, “Venereal Diseases”, “V. D.” for short, has been, for its obloquy, replaced by the term “Sexually Transmitted Diseases”, acronymally specified as “S. T. D.”, connoting thereby that the caravan of five entities, Syphilis, Gonorrhoea, Chancroid, Lymphogranuloma Venereum and Granuloma Venereum is reinforced with a trailer of eight extras; with every prospect of addition of countless more, if only the acquisition/transmission of any such, could be linked to an episodic sexuality antecedent.

In the course of cataloguing the dire consequences of untreated or malmanaged S. T. D., Gonorrhoea has been picked out, for its causing serious septicaemia – not reported in India – pelvic inflammatory disease due to disseminated gonococcal infection and sterility. The infliction of