ANTI-ALLERGIC DRUGS IN THE TREATMENT OF PHLYCTENULAR OPHTHALMIA

September 22, 1947. Two k.p. seen through the dense corneal haze. The eye was removed.

The socket was clean and healing was rapid: the man was discharged on the fifth day.

Pathological Report


Diagnosis. Early panophthalmitis.

Remarks. A case is reported of an injured eye infected with penicillin-sensitive organisms which did not respond to penicillin therapy.

THE USE OF ANTI-ALLERGIC DRUGS IN THE TREATMENT OF PHLYCTENULAR OPHTHALMIA*

BY

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The striking success achieved by benadryl and allied drugs in the treatment of urticaria and a widely divided group of conditions of allergic origin, suggested that this group of drugs might give some alleviation of the photophobia, irritation, lacrimation and eczematous condition with which phlyctenular disease is associated.

Subjects

Fifteen children from 2½ to 11 years of age. All had clinical evidence of phlyctenular disease, and showed positive Mantoux tests, and X-ray evidence of tuberculous infection; 9 cases had a family history of tuberculosis and 8 were contacts). In all all cases the drug concerned was given when the symptoms were particularly troublesome and hence any improvement would have been particularly noticeable.

Drugs used

The two drugs used were benadryl (Parke Davis and Co. Ltd.), and antistin (Ciba). In 7 cases both agents were employed after an interval of at least one week.

* Received for publication, November 25, 1947.
Benadryl

This was used in 12 cases, a test dose of elixir benadryl (10 mgs. 1 drachm) was given 3 times a day the first day and then increased up to the amounts below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>mg./lb.</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of cases</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In all cases the total daily dosage was divided into three equal portions.

In only one case was there any improvement at all (4 mg./lb.) and as atropine was continued in all cases, the very slight amelioration of symptoms could easily have been due to the atropine.

No side effects were observed even at 4 mg./lb. body weight and the impression received, was that children were more immune to the symptoms of drowsiness, lassitude, etc., than were adults.

Antistin

This was used in 10 cases and the dosage employed was 1 tablet 3 times a day for 6 cases. In 4 cases this was increased to 2 tablets 3 times a day.

There was no improvement in any of these cases and as opposed to benadryl the side effects, particularly of giddiness, were very noticeable.

Conclusion

In 15 typical and active cases of phlyctenular ophthalmia, there was no improvement of the photophobia, lacrimation, irritation and eczema with benadryl and antistin, two well recognized anti-allergic drugs.

I am indebted to Professor Arnold Sorsby for permission to publish this note.

INTRA-MURAL NEW VESSELS IN AN OCCLUDED RETINAL VEIN
A clinical description*

BY

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The following case is described because it illustrates clinically the presence of fine vessels within the wall of a retinal vein. So far as concerns the retina such intra-mural vessels have been described

* Received for publication, August 9, 1947.