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TREATMENT OF TOXIC DYSENTERY WITH PERISTON N

Ye. S. Geronimus (Editor)

Comment: The following is the complete text of a Russian abstract of an article by J. Dieckoff, in Ztschr. f. d. Gesamte und Innere Medizin, No 15, p 682, 1952, a periodical which is published in Leipzig.

After mentioning the high lethality among patients suffering from toxic dysentery, the author J. Dieckoff emphasizes the necessity of developing an effective method of treating this disease in view of the circumstance that administration of antitoxic serum does not yield good results. The author cites published data in regard to the mechanism of the action of periston or collidon (polyvinyl pyrrolidone), which is a nonbiogenic colloid, and points out the capacity of periston to bind endotoxins and exotoxins, to exert a beneficial effect on capillaries, and to bring about elimination of toxins through the kidneys. The action of periston has been demonstrated by the application of this substance in diphtherial infections both under experimental and clinical conditions. The author has treated toxic dysentery with a 6% solution of Periston N, which has a molecular weight of 20,000.

Experimental investigations carried out on rabbits show that administration of periston within 10-20 min after administration of a lethal dose of dysentery toxin prevents death in the majority of cases (out of 16 experimental animals, 14 survived). Seventeen children suffering from toxic dysentery were treated with Periston N. The histories of these cases are described. Sonne, Strong, and Flexner dysentery bacteria were isolated from these patients. Periston N was injected intravenously in doses of 15 milliliters per 1 kg of weight twice a day for 2-3 days. A single injection was carried out in 20-30 minutes. In 15 cases an effect due to Periston N was apparent. This effect could usually be observed 24 hr after the injection.

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After stating that in toxic dysentery there is an increased permeability of the walls of capillaries to blood plasma and that the severe collapse which occurs in this disease is due to a reduction of the quantity of plasma that circulates in the blood vessels, the author describes a series of physicochemical investigations of the blood which he carried out. According to his data, filling of the blood vessels, an increase in the total quantity of blood, a reduction of the viscosity of blood, a rise of osmotic pressure, and some other effects are observed after the administration of Periston N.

The author concludes that Periston N exerts a beneficial therapeutic effect, bringing about cessation of the fever in 24-36 hr (usually after the second injection), a rapid disappearance of the bloody and mucous stool, improvement of the general condition, and amelioration of the blood circulation. For these reasons, Periston N is an effective agent for the treatment of toxic dysentery.

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