

1065 SHWARTZMAN PHENOMENON IN LEPROSY

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Disturbances of preexisting immunological balance have been thought to bring about episodes of acute hypersensitivity to bacillary antigens of *M. leprae*. In view of the rare availability of pure *M. leprae* antigen, some haematological investigations were done simultaneously with histological study for a better understanding of such supposedly immune complex syndromes. The investigative study comprised: Quantitation of heparin precipitable fraction (HPF) and fibrinogen along with studies on haemostasis and histological examination of skin biopsy. A total of 105 leprosy patients were studied. Significant rise in HPF and fibrinogen values were observed in Stable Lepromatous (SL) and Acute Lepromatous Infiltration (ALI) cases. Euglobulin lysis time was increased in the ALI group only, during the acute phase. Deficiency of factors V, VII, VIII, IX and XI, either singly or in combination, was noted in ALI patients, but platelets were normal in all. Histology revealed evidences of intravascular coagulation in small and medium sized dermal vessels. These observations suggest that during the course of lepromatous leprosy, periodically there might occur generalised Shwartzman type of reaction when qualitative and quantitative alterations of fibrinogen leads to its deposition in small blood vessels.

1066 ALTERATIONS OF HAEMOSTASIS DURING LIVER FAILURE BY CCl₄ IN PIG

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Ten pigs of 30-40 kg body weight, received a 0.05 ml/kg b.w. CCl₄ injection in hepatic artery. Before and 30 min, 1, 3, 6, 9 and 24hr after injection a blood sample was drawn from femoral artery. White, red cells and platelet counts, APTT, Prothrombin, Fibrinogen, Factor VIII AHF (one-stage method), Platelet Aggregation (P.A.) according Born by ADP 2 μ M were performed. Very high levels of VIII AHF and fibrinogen and a reversible P.A. have been observed on basal sample. After CCl₄ injection a progressive lowering of prothrombin, fibrinogen and platelets, and a prolonged APTT have been observed. P.A. was reduced to 20-30%. VIII AHF showed variable levels during the first 3 hrs but a clear increase more than 150% of the initial value has been observed from the 6th to 9th hr. Unfortunately many efforts to assay VIII AGN by an antiserum against human VIII AGN, have been failed. An activation of VIII AHF cannot be excluded but the late increase after liver necrosis seems to suggest a real VIII AHF increase. The high degree of variability of pigs survival, ranging from 9 to 24 hrs has prompted us to search for another experimental model of acute hepatic failure.

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