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ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS
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374. SUL MECCANISMO D'AZIONE DEI CORTISONICI NELLE PIASTRINOPENIE

A. BASERGA e G. BALLERINI, Università di Ferrara; Istituto di Patologia Speciale Medica, Ferrara, Italia

Viene rivista l'azione terapeutica del cortisone e derivati nelle piastrinopenie, sulla base di una casistica di 60 pazienti. Vengono passati in rassegna i principali meccanismi di azione prospettabili, ossia l'effetto capillarotropo ed emostatico vascolare, l'effetto mielostimolante, l'effetto antiautoimmunitario piastrinico, l'effetto antisplenico paragonabile ad una 'splenectomia farmacologica', e vengono portati i risultati di varie osservazioni a favore e contro ciascuna di queste ipotesi. In particolare è stato condotto un sistematico studio degli anticorpi antiplastrinici che sono stati trovati sovente presenti nelle piastrinopenie apparentemente idiopatiche, senza che peraltro sia risultata dalle presenti ricerche una stretta correlazione fra positività delle ricerche immunologiche e favorevole risposta alla terapia.

THE MECHANISM OF ACTION OF THE CORTISONE-LIKE DRUGS IN THROMBOCYTOPENIA

A review is presented of the therapeutic effects of cortisone and its derivatives in the various forms of thrombocytopenia, with reference to observations in 60 patients. Subsequently, the authors consider the various hypotheses advanced in connection with the mechanism of action: the theory of the capillarotropic and vascular haemostatic effect, of the myelo-stimulatory effect, of the anti-auto-immunitary thrombocytary effect, and of the antisplenic effect, compared to a 'pharmacological splenectomy'; reference is made to various observations constituting arguments pro and contra these theories. In particular, a systematic study has been made of the anti-thrombocytary antibodies which are often encountered in cases of thrombocytopenia of apparently idiopathic character; however, so far the investigations have not revealed a close correlation between a positive result of the immunological studies, and a favourable effect of the treatment.

*375. EFFECT OF DESOXYCORTICOSTERONE ACETATE AND CORTISONE ADMINISTRATION UPON THE DEVELOPMENT OF CINCHOPHEN ULCER IN DOGS

A. HAMORI, T. NEMES and T. ILLYES, 2nd Department of Medicine, University Medical School, Pécs, Hungary

Antagonism between DOC and cortisone has been investigated by the authors in experimental gastric and duodenal ulceration. Cinchophen was administered to dogs according to Van Wagoner and Churchill. DOC was administered in daily doses of 0.5 mg/kg, and cortisone in doses of 5 mg/kg/day. With simultaneous controls a total of 58 dogs has been used for these experiments. All animals were kept isolated in cages, fed on a mixed diet of kitchen refuse, sacrificed on the 22nd day of the experiment, and gastric ulceration evaluated quantitatively by planimetry. Results: (1) DOC antagonises development of gastric and completely inhibits duodenal ulceration. Gastritis and duodenitis occur in equal frequency in both the group treated and that not treated with DOC. (2) Harmful effects of cortisone treatment on gastric ulceration, induced experimentally by cinchophen administration, can be demonstrated only in about 40%. Exceptionally large ulcerations are not combined with gastritis.

Conclusions: Relation between mineralo- and glucocorticoid blood level may have some - although no decisive - role in gastric ulceration. Favourable influence of DOC may be considered as a pharmacological effect. Gastritis and peptic ulcer are consequences of independent pathomechanism.

376. HYPERSENSITIVITY TO THE INFLAMMATORY STEROIDS

G.P. HECKEL, University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry; 1400 Mt. Hope Avenue, Rochester 20, New York, N.Y., U.S.A.

Metabolites of the gonadal hormones, progesterone and testosterone, have inflam-