

Unreviewed Reports

Catheter blockage with lipid during long term parenteral nutrition

Fourteen patients received 18 courses of cyclical parenteral nutrition of 16-402 (mean 113) days' duration with ethylene vinyl acetate bags containing Intralipid 20% (KabiVitrum) and all other nutrients. Six catheters (two Hickman, four Broviac) became occluded by lipid like material after 70-402 (mean 206) days. Urokinase was used on two occasions but failed to unblock the catheters. This experience confirms one previous report from France¹ and suggests that Intralipid may tend to cause catheter occlusion when mixed with all other nutrients.—J MAIN, C R PENNINGTON, King's Cross Hospital, Dundee DD3 8EA. (Accepted 8 August 1984)

¹ Messing B, Beliah M, Girard-Pipau F, Leleve D, Bernier JJ. Technical hazards of using nutritive mixtures in bags for cyclical intravenous nutrition. *Gut* 1982;23:297-303.

Graves's disease: isolation of echovirus 21 in thyroid gland

A 32 year old woman underwent thyroidectomy nine months after developing Graves's disease in pre-existing goitre. Coculture of thyroid cells showed echovirus 21 (Gaudin OG, Centre Hospitalier Régional et Universitaire de Saint Etienne). Two and 22 months later neutralising antibody titres were noted to fall from 1/64 to 1/16. Stool and urine cultures were negative at the time of operation. Contamination could be excluded. Chronic viral persistence is only observed in immunodeficient patients. Our findings, together with an earlier report of Graves's disease during congenital viral infection,¹ suggest a possible viral trigger.—FLUCHT, H ROUSSET, Centre Hospitalier Régional et Universitaire de Dijon, BP 1542, 21034 Dijon, France. (Accepted 16 August 1984)

¹ Salisbury S, Embil JA. Graves' disease following congenital cytomegalovirus infection. *J Pediatr* 1978;92:954.

Pigmented naevi after mercaptopurine

Four months after cytostatic drug treatment for acute lymphatic leukaemia multiple brownish black spots (2-4 mm) developed spontaneously on the thorax of a 5 year old girl. Six months later these spots (histologically junction naevi with some inflammation in the surrounding tissue) had increased in size and number. Similar cutaneous changes have been observed in three other children who had received, in addition to other cytostatic and immunosuppressive drugs such as cyclophosphamide, cytarabine, methotrexate, and dexamethasone, the antimetabolite mercaptopurine (Puri-Nethol). The manufacturer was unacquainted with such a side effect. Such cutaneous changes have previously been reported only eight years after topical mustine hydrochloride.¹—H IPPEN, University Dermatology Clinic, G PRINDULL, University Paediatric Clinic, Göttingen, West Germany. (Accepted 30 August 1984)

¹ Cosnes A, Revuz J, Wechsler J. Melanoma and dysplastic naevi after eight years of topical mechlorethamine. *Ann Dermatol Venerol* 1984;111:127.

Disseminated *Mycobacterium malmoeense* infection

A 59 year old woman with atypical chronic granulocytic leukaemia, treated for 12 months with busulphan and thioguanine, developed a chronic cough and fine nodular opacities on chest radiographs. A transbronchial biopsy excluded busulphan lung, leukaemic infiltration, and *Pneumocystis carinii* infection. Despite negative sputum cultures she developed multiple subcutaneous abscesses, which enlarged until acid fast bacteria were isolated from them. Rifampicin, isoniazid, and ethambutol were started, but she died. Subsequently the organism was typed as *Mycobacterium malmoeense*, a member of the *M avium* group of atypical mycobacteria, resistant to rifampicin and isoniazid and previously only described in man as a lung pathogen.—A M CRELLIN, J R OWEN,

Gloucestershire Area Centre for Radiotherapy and Oncology, Cheltenham. (Accepted 30 August 1984)

Pipothiazine palmitate induced mania

A 26 year old man with a seven year history of schizophrenia started to receive pipothiazine palmitate (25 mg increased to 75 mg by two weekly intervals) shortly after admission. After about eight weeks he developed manic like symptoms—pressure of speech, flight of ideas, grandiose delusions, over activity, and elation. Pipothiazine palmitate was withheld, and he responded well to haloperidol. When challenged with pipothiazine palmitate he again developed manic symptomatology that responded to haloperidol. A previous report has suggested that pipothiazine palmitate enhances the effectiveness of antidepressant treatment in depressed patients¹; its possible mania inducing or antidepressant effects should be investigated further.—A N SINGH, J MAGUIRE, St Brigid's Hospital, Ardee, Co Louth, Eire. (Accepted 30 August 1984)

¹ Johnston RE, Niesink F. A versatile new sustained-action neuroleptic pipothiazine palmitate in psychiatric practice. *J Int Med Res* 1979;7:187-93.

Malaria influencing glycosylated haemoglobin concentration

A 44 year old black man was admitted with diabetes type I and malaria. He had a one month history of bad metabolic control (basal glucose concentrations during that month 15.6, 19.4, 12.8 mmol/l (280, 350, 230 mg/100 ml)). Glycosylated haemoglobin concentration was measured¹ twice on the day after admission (5.8% and 4.7%). Glycosylated haemoglobin concentration should reflect average long term blood glucose concentrations, but these values did not correlate with the previous basal glucose concentrations. The short half life (10 days) of red blood cells in malaria was probably responsible for the decreased concentration of glycosylated haemoglobin.—A SARTO, R GOMIS, Diabetes Unit, Hospital Clinico y Provincial, Barcelona. (Accepted 30 August 1984)

¹ Abraham E, Huff T, Cope N, Wilson J, Bransome E, Huisman T. Determination of the glycosylated hemoglobin (HbA_{1c}) with a new microcolumn procedure. *Diabetes* 1978;27:931-7.

Diminished response to endotoxin

An elderly man, admitted for a leg ulcer, became mildly feverish. Blood culture, a subsequent midstream specimen of urine, and an ulcer swab grew *Klebsiella pneumoniae*. His temperature returned to normal despite blood cultures repeatedly containing *K pneumoniae* and concentrations of endotoxin equivalents (chromogenic limulus assay) rising to 9 ng/ml.¹ IgA concentration was raised (252 IU/ml). Counterimmunoelectrophoresis against lipid A was negative and against *K pneumoniae* endotoxin gave a titre of 1/16. Hairy cell leukaemia was also diagnosed. His apparent tolerance of endotoxin might be explained by the presence of antibodies active against it or by a feature of hairy cells that precludes its toxic action.—T J J INGLIS, M R MILLAR, Department of Microbiology, University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT. (Accepted 31 August 1984)

¹ Sauter C, Wolfsberger C. Interferon in human serum after injection of endotoxin. *Lancet* 1980;ii:852-3.

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