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Contributors

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For the Medical Profession only

'ALEPOL' BRAND
SODIUM HYDNOCARPATE

Made in Britain

The early injection treatment of leprosy with the sodium salts of the fatty acids of hydnocarpus oil, although effective, was attended by considerable local pain and irritation, and the method was virtually abandoned.

The problem of reducing the local action without affecting the therapeutic activity of the drug was investigated in The Wellcome Research Laboratories, where it was shown that the sodium salts of the lower melting-point fatty acids of the oil were less irritating than those of the higher melting-point acids. These better-tolerated salts, prepared from a selected fraction of the fatty acids of the oil derived from *Hydnocarpus wightiana*, are available as 'Alepol,' and the experiences of many workers have confirmed its value in the routine treatment of leprosy.

ADMINISTRATION

'Alepol' may be given by intramuscular, subcutaneous or intravenous injection. The usual course of treatment is to give an initial dose of 1 c.c. of a 3 per cent solution, either intramuscularly or subcutaneously below any skin lesions, increasing the dose by 0·5 c.c. up to 5 c.c., or more if no febrile or local reaction occurs. The injections are made twice weekly, but if a reaction does occur it should be allowed to subside for a week before further injections are given. In such cases the next dose should be reduced by 0·5 c.c., and increased later according to the response. In selected cases the strength of the solution may be increased to 6 per cent, given in similar doses, if improvement is not continuous after treatment with the 3 per cent solution. It has been reported that the addition of 2·5 per cent v/v of glycerin

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reduces the pain that may follow subcutaneous injections of 'Alepol.'

An alternative course of treatment in resistant cases is to give weekly intravenous injections of a 1 per cent solution of ' Alepol.' An initial dose of 1 c.c. is given, which is increased by 1 c.c. until 5 c.c. or more are injected. Alternating intramuscular injections may also be given. If a reaction occurs, an interval of ten to fourteen days should elapse before further intravenous injections are made. An intravenous injection technique, which reduces any risk of local adhesive phlebitis to a minimum, is to draw up the dose of ' Alepol ' solution into a 20 c.c. syringe. After inserting the needle in the vein, sufficient blood is drawn up into the syringe to dilute the dose two or three times. With the needle still in position, the syringe is rotated in order to mix the contents, after which the whole volume is injected. By this method a number of doses have been given at the same point in the vein without difficulty.

STERILISATION OF THE SOLUTION

Solutions of ' Alepol ' for injection may be sterilised in an autoclave. If this is not possible, the method of sterilisation by heating with a bactericide may be used, *i.e.*, add chlorocresol 0·2 per cent or phenylmercuric nitrate 0·002 per cent to the solution, and heat in sealed containers for thirty minutes at a temperature of 98°–100°. Volumes of solution greater than 30 c.c. must be heated for a longer period.

'ALEPOL' BRAND SODIUM HYDNOCARPATE

Bottles of 25 and 100 grammes

BURROUGHS WELLCOME & CO.
(The Wellcome Foundation Ltd.)
LONDON

Associated Houses :

New York Montreal Sydney Cape Town Bombay
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'ALEPOL' MARQUE DE FABRIQUE

HYDNOCARPATE DE SODIUM

Produit britannique

Bien qu'il fût efficace, le traitement de la lèpre par l'injection de sels de sodium des acides gras de l'huile d'hydnocarpe, tel qu'on l'avait pratiqué en premier lieu, s'accompagnait de tant de douleur et d'irritation locale, que cette méthode fut virtuellement abandonnée.

Le problème que posait l'atténuation de l'action locale sans nuire à l'activité thérapeutique de la drogue, a fait l'objet, dans les Laboratoires de Recherches Wellcome, d'études qui ont démontré que les sels de sodium des acides gras à point de fusion plus bas de cette huile sont moins irritants que ceux des acides gras dont le point de fusion est plus élevé. Ces sels mieux tolérés, préparés à l'aide d'une fraction choisie des acides gras de l'huile dérivée de l'*Hydnocarpus wightiana*, sont disponibles dans l' ' Alepol,' et les expériences pratiquées par de nombreux chercheurs en ont confirmé la valeur dans le traitement routinier de la lèpre.

ADMINISTRATION

L' ' Alepol ' peut s'administrer par injection intramusculaire, sous-cutanée ou intraveineuse. Le cours habituel du traitement consiste à donner une dose initiale de 1 cmc. d'une solution à 3 pour cent, par injection intramusculaire ou sous-cutanée au-dessous de n'importe quelles lésions de la peau, en augmentant la dose de 0 cmc. 5 jusqu'à 5 cmc. ou même davantage s'il ne se produit pas de réaction fébrile ou locale. Les injections se font deux fois par semaine ; mais s'il y a réaction il faudra la laisser diminuer pendant une semaine avant de donner de nouvelles injections. En pareils cas, il convient de réduire la dose suivante de 0 cmc. 5, puis de l'augmenter plus tard, selon la réponse. Dans certains cas choisis, on peut porter la concentration de la solution à 6 pour cent et l'administrer à doses similaires, si l'amélioration n'est pas continue après le traitement avec

reduces the pain that may follow subcutaneous injections of 'Alepol.'

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