

Betaxan in post-diphtheritic paralysis.

Contributors

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BETAXAN IN POST-DIPHTHERITIC PARALYSIS

BETAXAN (vitamin B₁) is being increasingly used in the treatment of nervous diseases of various types, and Bischoff¹ reports his experiences in two cases of post-diphtheritic paralysis in which this therapy was used.

CASE 1.—A child, aged 7 years 7 months, suffering from pharyngeal diphtheria. On Feb. 2nd 8000 units A.D.S. were given, and on Feb. 10th circulatory failure, from which the child rallied on treatment, occurred. Paralysis of the soft palate appeared on Feb. 24th, both legs and both sternomastoids were paralysed on March 17th, by March 31st paralysis of the diaphragm was present, and the child was admitted to hospital. Betaxan, 1 c.c. daily intramuscularly, had been given for two days before admission, and it was continued for twelve days thereafter. After the third injection the head could be raised by voluntary movement, and after the sixth injection clear indications of a deepening of respiratory movements appeared, leading to an improvement in the child's hitherto critical condition. After a slow resolution of the remaining paralysis under treatment with strychnine and other agents, the child was discharged.

CASE 2.—A child, aged 4 years 2 months. On March 16th pharyngeal diphtheria, treated by serum, was followed by a rapid clearance of symptoms. Partial paralysis of both legs began on April 5th; by the time of admission to hospital on April 7th the paralysis was complete, and otitis media was present. Treatment with strychnine, six daily injections, produced no improvement; and nine daily injections of Betaxan (1 c.c. intramuscularly) failed to influence the paralysis. The child was discharged after recovery following Faradic treatment.

It is interesting to note that the diaphragmatic paralysis improved after Betaxan treatment, whereas the paralysis of the extremities was unaffected. Whether this is due to differences in the nerves concerned, or to differences in the degree of injury sustained by those nerves, the author cannot say. Further observations may clear up this difficulty.

¹ Postdiphtherische Lähmung und Betaxan: Kinderärztl. Prax. 1937, H.9., S. 375.

'Betaxan' is issued in ampoules of 1 c.c. in boxes of 3, 15 and 50, and in tablets, in tubes of 20 and bottles of 100.

'Betaxan' Forte is issued in ampoules of 1 c.c. in boxes of 3 and 15.

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