

PROBLEM OF DEFAULT AND FATE OF DEFAULTERS

M.A. RAHIM AND R. PATHASARATHY

The study was carried out at DTC, Thanjavur during 1983-84 with the object of determining the quantum of default with reasons thereof and to determine the fate of defaulters in relation to their bacteriological and radiological status both at the start of treatment and at the time of default. There were 3,291 defaulters out of which 2,337 were attending the DTC and 954 were taking treatment in the various PHIs. The average number of defaults per patient was 5.6 in the PHIs and 3.7 in the DTC patients. Seventy five percent of the defaulters had 50% or more of drug collection as against 43%, amongst the PHIs defaulters. Sixty eight percent of the defaulters could be retrieved.

RETROSPECTIVE STUDY OF 245 DEFAULTERS REPORTING BACK TO DTC ON THEIR OWN

R.A. SHARMA

Two hundred and forty five patients had stopped taking drugs after varying periods of treatment between July 1982 and December, 1984. The commonest cause of default was relief of symptoms followed by migration. Reappearance of symptoms was responsible for their reporting back at the DTC after earlier default. Some patients defaulted because of pregnancy and some because injections were not given to them (which they thought was essential for treatment). Bacteriological status at the time of reporting back after default depended upon the duration of treatment which the patient had before default and the interval between default and reporting back.

ROLE OF REPEAT SPUTUM MICROSCOPY IN THE DIAGNOSIS OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

M. SUNDARAMMA. *Et. Al.*

The study is based on 4,063 patients who were considered to be suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis on the basis of clinical and radiological evidence. Of these, 1,619 were positive for AFB by microscopy of the spot specimen of sputum. Of the 2,444 whose spot specimen was negative, 1,672 were included in the study, for which first specimen of sputum brought out by the patient immediately after waking up in the morning was examined. Four hundred and eighty eight were positive on the first day, 2 on the second day and 5 on the third day.

DISTRICT TUBERCULOSIS PROGRAMME : MATERIAL AND METHODS FOR ENHANCING CASE-FINDING AND TREATMENT ACTIVITY IN RURAL AREAS : AN OPERATIONAL ASPECT

R.C. SHARMA, *et al*

Case-finding camps were organised in the rural areas of the district with a view to improve case-finding. The Camps were preceded by an intensive publicity campaign. Before the Camp, sputum of 478 symptomatics was examined and 5 were found to be positive. As a result of the Camps, 7,335 symptomatics were examined and 730 fresh sputum positive cases were identified. Of the 730 freshly discovered cases, 360 were initial defaulters but 110 of these could be called subsequently for starting treatment.

ROLE OF PARA-MEDICAL PERSONNEL IN NATIONAL TUBERCULOSIS PROGRAMME

J.L. MONGA

The role of para-medical workers should consist of identifying the chest symptomatics, collecting proper specimens of sputum from them and arranging for examination of the sputum. In respect of case-holding, their most important function is to motivate the patient and the family for regular treatment. Treatment regimens must be acceptable to obtain better compliance from the patients and the para-medicals must identify adverse reactions as early as possible. Health education with a view to create public awareness, to maintain proper record of treatment with a view to detect drug default, as early as possible, and to take prompt defaulter action are the other

responsibilities of a para-medical worker. The need for improved working conditions and better emoluments for the para-medical workers was stressed.

A COMPARATIVE ASSESSMENT OF THREE MOTIVATION PROCEDURES FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF TREATMENT—INTERIM RESULTS

(New Delhi Tuberculosis Centre)

Three different procedures of motivation of domiciliary patients of pulmonary tuberculosis in respect of regular drug taking were compared. In all three procedures, initial motivation was provided at the centre. However, recurrent motivation at 4 weekly intervals was provided according to three different procedures:-

- A. Motivated at *Centre* by *Health Visitor*
- B. Motivated at *Home* in presence of at least 2 adult family members by *Health Visitor*
- C. Motivated at *Centre* by *Doctor*.

The same drug regimen (8 HR7F/24 TH) was prescribed to all patients, the total treatment lasting 32 weeks.

An interim analysis covering the first 16 weeks of treatment of 65 patients showed that during this initial period there was not much to choose between the three procedures. However, substantial differences were noted when data covering the first 24 weeks were analysed for the 35 patients who had completed this period. In Procedure A the average number of drug days lost was 16.3 and in B 3.2. days. In procedure C, where the medical officer provided the motivation, the average was the highest i.e. 22.3 days. From this limited analysis it appears that procedure B has an edge over others but final conclusions must await completion of the study.

A STUDY OF PHARMACOKINETICS OF PYRAZINAMIDE IN TUBERCULOSIS PATIENTS

MRS. SANDHYA KULSHRESTHA

(Paper being published in full)

ALLERGEN TESTING AND HYPOSENSITISATION

P.A. DESHMUKH, *et al.*

Two hundred and fifty eight cases consisting of bronchial asthma (112) allergic rhinitis (72) and both together (74) were studied. One hundred and forty four of the patients were males and nearly 3/4th of the patients were in the age group 15-44 years. House dust was found to be the most frequent allergen followed by Candida, rice grain dust and 11 varieties of pollen. Hyposensitisation with specific vaccine was possible in 50 cases. Of these, 14% showed good improvement, 36% moderate improvement and 12% mild improvement. In 38%, hyposensitisation was a failure. Improvement was obtained within 16 weeks. Patients with definite history of periodic or seasonal exacerbations are likely to be benefitted. Multi-reactors do not benefit and patients in the younger age group fare better.

A STUDY OF INTRADERMAL ALLERGY TESTING IN BRONCHIAL ASTHMA IN RAIPUR

B. SARKAR, *et al.*

Intra-dermal testing was carried out in 50 patients of bronchial asthma and compared with 10 healthy controls. Thirty five of the patients were males, 86% had allergic rhinitis, 22% urticaria, 20% food allergy and 8% had associated eczema. Extrinsic asthma was more frequent than intrinsic. Seventy four allergens were used for skin testing. Dust and insects were the two most frequent offending allergens.

SKIN SENSITISING TEST AND TOTAL SERUM IgE LEVELS IN NORMAL AND VARIOUS ALLERGIC DISORDERS

S.K. SAHA, *et al.*

The study is based on 40 patients. Total mean serum IgE in healthy individuals was found