ANTIALLERGIC EFFECT OF "CICHOL"
(COMPLEX OF CITRAL WITH SODIUM CHOLATE)

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(Received September 30, 1955. Presented by Acting Member of the Acad. Med. Sci. USSR A. E. Braunshtein)

The antiallergic effect of a colloidal solution of provitamin-A—carotene—was first discovered by S. D. Balokhovsky and L. A. Kashchevskaia [2]. Further investigations have established that some substances partially reproducing the structure of the vitamin A molecule possess anticholinergic and antihistaminic activity [1, 2]. The investigations of Balokhovsky and Rivkina [4] showed that the product formed by interaction of sodium cholate and citral, known as "cichol", possesses antihistaminic and anticholinergic properties to the same degree as pure citral (threshold of sensitivity approximately 1:10^6).

According to the findings of our clinical investigations, "cichol" possesses to a high degree the capacity of removing pain in the eye when forced into the conjunctival sac, and the removal of pain is not accompanied by a decline in the sensitivity of the tissues, i.e., freeing from pain in this case, is not produced by either anesthetizing or narcotic action. Subsequently, it was shown that "cichol", introduced parenterally, in a large percentage of cases (60-70) removes pain in just the same way in patients with eye diseases.

In order to work out still further indications for therapeutic usage of citral and "cichol", it was very interesting to clarify whether they possess desensitizing (antiallergic) properties. For this purpose we arranged a number of experiments*.

EXPERIMENTAL METHODS

We selected 22 guinea pigs which were vaccinated with 5-10 mg dried BOG vaccine (attenuated strain of Bacillus tuberculosis obtained by Calmette and Guerin in 1921). The introduction of this vaccine in the guinea pig was made necessary because of sensitization to tuberculin confirmed by high activity in the Mantoux reaction.

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* This work was performed by us in the BOG Laboratory of the Central Institute of Experimental Medicine.

I consider myself duty bound to express deep appreciation to the Chairman of the Tuberculosis Department of the Central Institute of Experimental Medicine Professor A. I. Tagunova and to the Director of the BOG Laboratory E. N. Leshchinsky, and to my scientific colleague O. M. Burkova for valuable advice given in the execution of this work.
Result of Reaction in Vaccinated Guinea Pigs:
A) Subjected to a course of injection of "cichol" (15 ml)—
Pale hyperemia of the skin, infiltrate 8x8x0.5 mm; B) In
the control — vivid hyperemia of the skin, infiltrate 14x15x24
mm, ischemia in the center 8x8 mm.

Exposures made twenty-four hours after introduction of
tuberculin.