

VAN DIE REDAKSIE : EDITORIAL
VERGIFTIGING DEUR SALISILATE

Alan K. Done¹ wys daarop dat salisilate die algemeenste oorsaak van vergiftiging by kinders is en dat volwassenes ook dikwels in selfmoordpogings daarvan gebruik maak. Die toksiese uitwerking van asetielsalisilsuur, natriumsalisilat en metielsalisilat is omtrent gelykstaande, maar vergiftiging deur eersgenoemde (aspirien) en laasgenoemde (wintergreen) is verantwoordelik vir 'n disproportionele groot getal sterftes. Selfs 'n teeelpelvol metielsalisilat kan dodelik wees. Vergiftiging deur die aspirien-plaasvervangers, salisilamide en acetaminofen, is van 'n ander aard en nie hier ter sprake nie.

Vroeë simptome van salisilat-vergiftiging sluit braking, tinnitus, vinnige asemhaling, koorsigheid, sufheid en deurmekaarheid in. In ernstiger gevalle mag bewusteloosheid, stuipe, respiratoriese- en kardiovaskuläre versaking volg. Dehidrasie kom algemeen by kinders voor weens die braking en verminderde innname van vloeistof. Ingewikkelde suur-alkalie stoornisse van die bloed kom soms voor, asook verbygaande hiper- en hipoglisemie. Bloedingstoornisse is gewoonlik te wye aan hipoprotrombinemie maar soms aan trombositemie of ander stollingsdefekte. Serebrale en pulmonäre edeem, asook nierversaking, kom soms voor.

Die diagnose van salisilatvergiftiging moet oorweeg word as genoemde simptome onverklaarbaar verskyn. 'n Positiewe bloed- of urinetoets lewer verdere bevestiging. Urine moet vooraf gekook word om diasetiese suur te verwijder en 'n valse bevinding uit te skakel, alvorens ferriehloried bygevoeg word—'n violet tot perskleurige ring in die proefbuis dui op die aanwesigheid van salisilat in die urine. Die toets is van min kwantitatiewe waarde aangesien die innname van slegs 'n geringe maat salisilat dit positief maak. 'n Nuwe urine-toets met versadigde strokies (Phenistix) gee 'n beter aanduiding van watter pasiënte kwantitatiewe bloedtoetse behoort te ondergaan.² Die pasiënt se kliniese simptome gee die getrouste aanduiding van sy prognose.

Pogings om die maag te ledig is aangedui as die pasiënt binne 4 uur na die innname van 'n salisilat onder behandeling kom (6 uur vir wintergreenolie). 'n Braakmiddel (soos ipekakuanastroop of 'n subkutane inspuiting van apomorfien) is moontlik te verkies bo die omslagtiger maagpomp, hoewel laasgenoemde die enigste uitweg by 'n bewustelose of stuipe-pasiënt is. Koeksoda moet onder geen omstandighede gegee word nie, daar dit die absorpsie van salisilate verhoog. 'n Pasiënt met lige vergiftiging hoef verder net voldoende hoeveelhede vloeistof mondelings in te neem, dog, die binne-aarse toediening daarvan

tesame met die soutie om die suur-alkalie balans te herstel, word by ernstiger gevalle aangedui—die keuse van die preparaat sal daarvan afhang of simptome van asidose of alkalisme aanwesig is. Waar die vloeie van nierplasma verlaag is, berus die keuse op 'n kaliumvrye, half-isotoniese oplossing (wat betrek natrium). So 'n mengsel kan berei word deur 'n mengsel van 170 ml. van 'n fisiologiese (0,9%) soutoplossing, 14 ml. van 7,5% natrium bikarbonaat en 330 ml. van 10% dekstrose. Ongeveer 400 ml. van hierdie mengsel per vierkante meter liggaamsoppervlakte word oor 'n periode van een uur toegediend. As urine-afskieding nog nie word dit voortgesit teen 'n derde van hierdie vloitempo. Waar hewige skok teenwoordig is, sal genoemde toediening voorafgegaan word deur plasma of bloed. Wanneer bevredigende urine-uitskeiding daargestel is, word 'n hipotoniese, politioniese kaliumbevattende oplossing dan toegediend teen 2,5-4,0 liter/vk. m. van liggaamsoppervlakte per dag. Spesifieke alkaliiese terapie is slegs aangedui in die teenwoordigheid van hewige asidose (bloed pH onder 7,2). Dan word 15 mEkW. natriumbikarbonaat/l. by die binne-aarse oplossing gevoeg. Verder word die binne-aarse toediening van 20-50 mg. vitamien K, as profilakse teen bloeding aangedui. Kunsmatige ventilasie en suurstof mag nodig wees in gevallen van respiratoriese versaking. Stimulante dien geen doel nie. Kalsium is nodig in die teenwoordigheid van tetanie. Serebrale en pulmonäre edeem word konvensionele behandel. Afsponsing is nodig as die koers hoog is. 'n Kunsnier of intermitterende peritoneale dialise met 'n proteienvrye oplossing mag behulpsaam wees as die salisilate onbevredigend uitgeskei word.

Alan K. Done¹ beklemtoon stapte om salisilatvergiftiging by kinders te voorkom. Owers behoort dit nie te gebruik behalwe op die uitdruklike bevel van 'n geneesheer nie. Daar moet streng by die voorgeskrewe dosis gehou word en daar moet 'n behoorlike onderskeid gemaak word tussen die beskikbare aspirientablette vir grootmense (5 grein), kinders ($1\frac{1}{2}$ grein) en babas ($\frac{1}{2}$ grein). Die gereelde 4-uurlikse toediening van aspirien kan spoedig tot akkumulasie tot binne giftige perke lei. Die gebruik van wintergreenolie as smeermiddel word nie aangeraai nie, tensy die giftigheid daarvan deeglik onder die verbruiker se aandag gebring word. Alle stapte moet geneem word om toevallige vergiftiging te voorkom, soos bv. dikwels gebeur met versuikerde aspirienpreparate wat binne die bereik van kleuters en kinders gelaat word.

1. Done, K. (1965): J. Amer. Med. Assoc., **192**, 770.

2. Johnson, P. K., Free, H. M. en Free, A. H. (1963): J. Pediat., **63**, 949.

YOU AND YOUR BABY : FIRST SOUTH AFRICAN EDITION

The first South African Edition of a booklet *You and Your Baby* is being published by the Medical Association of South Africa in conjunction with the British Medical Association, and will appear early in September. The booklet contains articles written by authorities (in English and Afrikaans) on practically every aspect of those problems on which expectant mothers would like to have

information. This publication ought to be of great value to all expectant mothers and especially to those who are expecting their first babies.

A number of copies will be sent *free of charge* to all members of the Medical Association to whom this publication may be of use—for instance, to general practitioners, obstetricians and gynaecologists, paediatricians and

hospital administrators;* the Association looks upon it as a service rendered by the Medical Association to its members and to the public. The booklet will therefore be available for distribution to patients who are expecting babies, irrespective of whether they are private patients or hospital patients attending outpatient or antenatal clinics.

In view of the fact that no separate lists of addresses of colleagues in full-time employment are available, copies will be received by a number of colleagues who have no

*Any other member of the Association is also welcome to let the Head Office know if he would like to receive copies of the booklet.

VERANDERING IN DIE MEDIESE KURSUS

Denkende geneeshere vra hulself soms af of hulle oortuig voel dat hul mediese opleiding in alle opsigte aan sy doel beantwoord het. Is daar nie te veel klem op onbenullighede gelê nie? Sou sekere onderwerpe nie met vrug in groter besonderhede behandel kon gewees het nie? In besprekings onder mediese kollegas kom die bestaande leerplanne van ons mediese skole dikwels onder die vergrootglas. Onlangs is die opleiding in psigiatrye in hierdie blad bespreek.¹ Dit is te betwyfel of 'n omvattende leerplan wat almal tevrede stel ooit opgestel kan word. Dog, is dit geen rede waarom bestaande leerplanne en opleidingsmetodes nie van tyd tot tyd hersien moet word nie, met inagneming van die spesiale omstandighede van die land wat deur die leerskole bedien word. In hierdie verband doen 'n medewerker in hierdie uitgawe van die *Tydskrif*² interessante voorstelle aan die hand.

W.C.A. SCALE OF FEES

The following is a copy of a letter dated 7 July 1965 from the Associate Secretary, M.A.S.A., to the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner:

'As you are aware the Medical Association and the Medical Aid Societies concerned have recently agreed to certain amendments to the Tariff of Fees applicable to members of approved medical aid societies. The amendments agreed to are a 25% increase in the fees for consultations and visits for all groups and a 10% increase in the fees for all other procedures in the Tariff.'

'I would now advise that the amendments to the medical aid tariff referred to above became effective on 1 July 1965, and I would be grateful if you would inform me whether you will now amend the WCA scale of fees in a similar manner. Should you agree to this request by the Association, I would also be grateful if you could give me some idea of the date on which you will implement the amendments.'

Abstract

HEREDITARY ALBINISM AND LEUKISM

Remarkable new data on the heredity of certain forms of human albinism and leukism have been reported.¹ Our knowledge of albinism and leukism in man and certain animals is reviewed until 1962. Three more recent publications (1962-64) on three new pedigrees are discussed. A comparison of data known about mammals with those of the three new pedigrees shows that there is no complete parallelism between man and animal. All patients in the three pedigrees suffer from deaf-mutism; in the first pedigree this is combined with autosomal recessive hereditary albinism; in the second, with recessive

private patients of their own; it will be greatly appreciated if these colleagues would give the copies that will be sent to them to doctors whom they know are in private practice or to clinics where expectant mothers are being treated.

It will be greatly appreciated if colleagues would let the Association know in due course whether they find the booklet useful. They are also requested to inform the Association whether they need more copies than those sent to them, in which case a further free consignment will be forwarded to them for distribution to their patients.

Na ons mening verdien die aanbeveling dat 'n baccalaureusgraad aan die einde van die derde studiejaar aan geslaagde kandidate moet toegeken word, spesiale vermelding. Met die huidige tekort aan opleidingsfasilitate om al die voornemende geneeshere op te lei en die drastiese keuring onder studente wat plaasvind, sal so 'n graadtoekenning as 'n aansporing vir baie studente dien.

Dit sal ook 'n beloning en 'n erkenning wees vir eksamens wat suksesvol afgelê is. Tans is dit die geval dat studente wat etlike mediese studiejare agter die rug het, maar dan weens omstandighede uitsak, met niks oorbyl om vir hul ywer te wys nie. Met só 'n graad agter hul naam kan gegradeerde minstens 'n alternatiewe loopbaan kies, bes moontlik een wat aan die geneeskunde gekoppel is.

1. Archer, B. C. (1965): S. Afr. T. Geneesk., 39, 635.
2. Meyer, B. J. en Van Rooyen, R. J. (1965): *Ibid.*, 39, 722.

In reply to this the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner wrote on 21 July 1965 as follows:

'In acknowledging the receipt of your letter dated 7 July 1965, I have to advise that I am prepared to accept the increased tariffs referred to by you, subject to the proviso that, as agreed to at the November meeting with your committee, there will be one tariff for visits and consultations by general practitioners throughout the Republic and South West Africa. The fees will be the existing fees plus 25%, viz:

Consultation in rooms	R1.90
Visits to residence, nursing home and hospital	R2.20
Night visits as described in item 1(7)(a)	R3.75
(Bantu R1.30, R1.50 and R2.50 respectively)	

'As you are no doubt aware the new tariff must be published in the *Government Gazette* in both official languages before it can be printed and distributed. In the circumstances it will not be possible to apply the new tariff at an earlier date than 1 November 1965.'

X-chromosomal inheritance of leukism with irregular pigmentation of the skin and iris; in the third, with autosomal dominant inheritance of leukistic skin, almost or completely albinotic hair, blue eyes and hypoplastic eyebrows. This third pedigree resembles the data known about deaf white cats with blue eyes. Obviously albinism as well as leukism in man may be due to several genes, or the effect of one gene is altered considerably, either by a change in localization, or by modifying genes.

1. Waardenburg, P. J. (1965): Ned. T. Geneesk., 109, 23.