

TO THE EDITOR, *British Journal of Venereal Diseases*

β -lactamase-producing gonococci in Hong Kong

Sir,

From 19 October 1979 to 26 December 1979 15 cases of gonorrhoea were confirmed by culture. Of these 15 cases, three were due to β -lactamase-producing gonococci. All 15 cases were Chinese patients encountered in private practice.

Specimens for culture were taken with a sterile cottonwool bud from the urethra in men and from the cervix in women and inoculated on to Thayer-Martin media.

These specimens were then transferred to the Department of Extramural Studies of the University of Hong Kong for incubation. The identity of suspected colonies of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* was confirmed by the oxidase test, Gram-stained smear, and sugar fermentation. β -lactamase-producing gonococci were detected by the chromogenic cephalosporin test.

A male patient, aged 32 years, presented with dysuria and a purulent urethral discharge. The source of infection was a prostitute in Hong Kong. He was successfully treated with spectinomycin 2 g intramuscularly.

A female patient, aged 22 years, presented with dysuria and a purulent

vaginal discharge. She was a contact of the previous patient and was successfully treated with spectinomycin 2 g intramuscularly.

A male patient, aged 23 years, presented with dysuria and a purulent urethral discharge. The source of infection was a prostitute in Hong Kong. He was treated with kanamycin 2 g intramuscularly. Unfortunately the patient did not attend for follow up.

Yours faithfully,
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Notices

Project Icarus

Project Icarus is an independent registered charity producing visual aids for health education. Most of these visual aids are posters and they include a set of eight posters on venereal disease (size 16 in \times 22 in). Other sets of posters cover drug abuse, alcoholism, and family planning. Each poster is black and white and is available in single editions or in sets (£2.30 per set or 40p each including carriage). Further information can be obtained from: Project Icarus Ltd, Raglan House, 4 Clarence Parade, Southsea, Hants PO5 3NU; Tel: Portsmouth (0705) 27460.

Atlas of sexually transmitted diseases

An "Atlas of Sexually Transmitted Diseases" by Professor E Stolz and Dr J van der Stek, published by Boehringer Ingelheim, is available from the UK company—namely, Boehringer Ingelheim, Southern Industrial Estate, Bracknell, Berks RG12 4YF. Doctors interested in obtaining copies should write direct to the UK company at this address.

Correction

In the paper by Evans *et al* on the "Prolonged use of the Greenland method of treatment of gonorrhoea" (1980;56: 88-91) the minimum inhibitory concentration quoted in the first sentence of the introduction should have read $\geq 0.1 \mu\text{g/ml}$ and not $\leq 0.1 \mu\text{g/ml}$.