

In their most recent study in Sheffield *H ducreyi* was isolated from 46 of 161 patients with genital ulceration (80 men and 81 women) (including those with herpes genitalis infections). These gave rise to typical entire, brownish, lenticulate colonies with the characteristic coherence which made them easy to push about but difficult to film or prepare a smooth suspension. The general features (scanning electron microscope photographs provided) correspond to those studied in Seattle and Manitoba as indicated by an exchange of strains (for details of three-part medium used see original). With the addition of strains previously isolated the total number now studied in Sheffield is 72, of which only three were β -lactamase producers, two being imported and the third a contact of one of those cases. Attempts to grow the organisms in a liquid medium have so far failed.

It is postulated that some strains of *H ducreyi* may be less pathogenic and so give rise to symptomatic infections which may be diagnosed only when they subsequently infect already damaged tissue as secondary invaders. Once established in damaged tissue the organisms contribute to the persistence of lesions until specific treatment is given.

R R Willcox

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The enzymatic profile of *Haemophilus ducreyi*

IM CASIN, MJ SANSON-LEPORS, MF GORCE, ET AL (Hôpital St Louis, Paris, France). *Ann Microbiol* 1982; **B133**: 379-88.

Urethral condylomata acuminata: a new topical treatment

Y HANNANI, AA SIDI, Y MADGAR, ET AL (Chaim Sheba Medical Centre, Tel Hashomer, Israel). *Isr J Med Sci* 1982; **18**: 1053-4.

Non-specific vaginitis. Diagnostic criteria and microbial and epidemiologic associations

R AMSEL, PA TOTTEN, CA SPIEGEL, ET AL (United States Public Health Service Hospital, Seattle, Washington, USA). *Am J Med* 1983; **74**: 14-22.

Using the laser to treat vulvar condylomata acuminata and intraepidermal neoplasia

A FERENCZY (Sir Mortimer B Davis Jewish General Hospital, Montreal, Quebec, Canada). *Can Med Assoc J* 1983; **128**: 135-7.

Public health and social aspects

Repeated gonorrhoea in Sheffield: the size of the problem, epidemiologic significance and personal characteristics of repeaters

GR KINGHORN, D PRYCE, AND RS MORTON (Royal Infirmary, Sheffield, UK). *Sex Transm Dis* 1982; **9**: 165-70.

Ophthalmia neonatorum in the 1980's—incidence, aetiology and treatment

JM PIERCE, ME WARD, AND DV SEAL (Northwick Park Hospital, Harrow, Middlesex, UK). *Br J Ophthalmol* 1982; **66**: 728-31.

Ophthalmia neonatorum (ON), defined as the presence of an acute overt ocular discharge together with conjunctival hyperaemia, was diagnosed in 54 out of 450 consecutive neonates observed for two weeks. In 42 of these cases swabs from the inferior palpebral conjunctiva were cultured using standard techniques for pathogenic (including *Chlamydia trachomatis*) and non-pathogenic bacteria and matched with 42 controls. Pathogens were isolated from only 15 cases compared with four controls and non-pathogens from 14 cases compared with 20 controls. *Streptococcus viridans* (six cases), but not *Staphylococcus aureus*, was found significantly more often among cases than controls. *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* was not isolated. There was one isolate of *C trachomatis*. Antibiotic sensitivity tests showed all bacteria associated with ON to be susceptible to tetracycline and all except *C trachomatis* to chloramphenicol. Sulphonamides were not usually effective and streptococci were resistant to gentamicin and neomycin.

A survey of 105 local general practitioners found that the majority treated ON with chloramphenicol but only 4% used chlortetracycline; only 18% said they would refer or treat the parents of neonates with chlamydial ON.

The authors postulate that initial inadequate tear flow and not an infectious agent may lead to ON and thus explain the 30% of cases from which no organism was isolated.

J R Willcox

The profile of early infectious syphilis in Denmark

CS PETERSEN AND NS PETERSEN (Staten Seruminstitut, Copenhagen, Denmark). *Dan Med Bull* 1983; **30**: 49-51.

Using the Danish syphilis index, which contains clinical and serological information on most, if not all, treponemal infections diagnosed since 1920, 333 episodes of early (primary, secondary, and early latent) syphilis diagnosed since 1979 were studied. Excluding 32 cases in which the sex orientation was unknown, 159 were in male homosexuals (including bisexuals), 95 in heterosexual men, and 47 in women, all of whom were believed to be heterosexual: 65 (41%) of the homosexually acquired infections were reinfections which corresponded to 77% of the total number of reinfections in the series; 41% of the male homosexuals had had more than one attack of syphilis compared with 13% in both the male heterosexuals and the women. Half of the homosexuals were aged 33 or more compared with approximately one fourth of heterosexual men. Sixty eight per cent of all early syphilis in Denmark and 86% of homosexually acquired infections were diagnosed in Copenhagen.

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Notice

International symposium on medical virology

The third international symposium on medical virology, sponsored by the Medical Microbiology Division, University of California, is to be held from 19 to 21 October 1983 at the Disneyland Hotel, Anaheim, California, USA. For further information, please contact: Dr Luis M de la Maza, Department of Pathology, University of California, Irvine Medical Center, 101 City Drive, Orange, California 92668, USA.