

REACTION TO LEPROMIN IN HEALTHY AND AFFECTED SKIN¹

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In patients reacting positively to lepromin, Hayashi (3), Dubois and Degotte (2), and Rotberg and Bechelli (4) have compared the results of the test applied to the healthy skin and to macular lesions inside their borders. Hayashi found the reaction to be more intense within the lesions. Dubois and Degotte also observed this variation, but not in all of the cases. Some of the patients of Rotberg and Bechelli exhibited the same difference between the two sites, whereas in the others there was no difference in the behavior of the Mitsuda reaction within and outside the lesions.

We have investigated this matter in 65 cases, of which 15 were tuberculoid, 6 indeterminate, and 44 lepromatous. Both the early and late reactions were observed. The results are shown in Table 1.

Tuberculoid group.—Of the 15 cases studied, 9 (60%) showed no variation in the readings of the lepromin tests made inside and outside the lesions. Of the 6 other cases, 4 gave stronger positive reactions within the lesions than outside, while in the other 2 cases the reverse difference was seen.

Undifferentiated group.—There was virtually complete concordance of the results in the 6 patients of this group, 2 of which were completely negative and are not included in the table.

Lepromatous group.—As it is known, the lepromin reaction is ordinarily negative in lepromatous cases, and 27 of our patients (61%) gave that result. The positive results which we recorded were distinct reactions in patients who had been intensively treated with sulfones, among whom there may be obtained weak positive or doubtful results, as we have reported in a previous paper (1).

Among our 44 cases, 31 (70%) gave the same results in both sites; of them only 4 showed any reaction whatever. Of the 13 others, only 5 showed reactions of greater intensity in the lesions than outside, while the remaining 8 exhibited the opposite effect.

¹ Translation from Spanish, approved by the authors.

TABLE 1.—Early and late lepromin reactions in normal-appearing skin in tuberculoid, indeterminate and lepromatous cases.

Case	Normal skin		Affected skin	
	48 hours	3 weeks	48 hours	3 weeks
<i>Tuberculoid cases (15)</i>				
E. de R.	—	±	—	±
V. J.	—	±	—	±
T. R.	—	±	—	±
R. M.	—	±	—	±
M. de M.	—	±	—	±
L. V.	—	1+	—	1+
J. J.	—	1+	—	1+
C. de M.	±	±	±	±
C. S.	1+	1+	1+	1+
E. de B.	±	±	1+	1+
B. R.	±	1+	1+	2+
D. M.	1+	1+	1+	2+
I. O.	1+	1+	2+	2+
M. A.	±	1+	±	—
S. M.	2+	2+	1+	1+
<i>Indeterminate cases (6)^a</i>				
M. de B.	—	±	—	±
L. M.	—	±	—	±
L. A. C.	1+	1+	1+	1+
C. V.	2+	1+	1+	1+

^a Two cases, entirely negative, not included.

TABLE 1.—Continued on next page.

TABLE 1.—Continued.

Case	Normal skin		Affected skin	
	48 hours	3 weeks	48 hours	3 weeks
<i>Lepromatous cases (44)^b</i>				
V. V.	—	—	±	—
D. F.	—	—	—	±
F. M.	—	—	±	±
G. B.	—	—	±	±
F. B.	—	±	—	—
M. S.	—	±	—	—
L. M.	—	±	—	—
A. de R.	—	±	—	±
R. L.	—	±	—	±
Y. R. S.	—	1+	—	1+
M. R.	±	—	—	—
M. de C.	±	—	—	—
Y. M.	±	—	—	—
Y. A.	±	—	±	—
O. A.	±	±	—	—
A. A.	±	—	—	1+
A. A.	±	1+	—	—

^b Twenty-seven cases, entirely negative, not included.

CONCLUSIONS

1. In duplicate lepromin tests of 65 patients, made in normal-appearing skin and within lesions, a large majority of the patients (71%) gave the same results, positive or negative, in both sites.

2. In the tuberculoid group, where there were differences the stronger reaction occurred more frequently inside the lesion than in normal skin.

3. In the lepromatous group the opposite effect was seen:

the stronger reaction was more often in the normal-appearing skin than within the lesions.

4. In the very small group of the indeterminate form there were no such differences.

RESUMEN EN ESPAÑOL

La prueba de la lepromina se aplicó a 65 pacientes leprosos en dos áreas cutáneas simultáneamente, un área de apariencia normal, otra con lesión evidente. El 71% de los pacientes reaccionaron de igual manera en ambas áreas, ya positivos, ya negativos. En el grupo del tipo tuberculoide, donde hubo diferencias en la reacción, ésta fué más frecuentemente de mayor intensidad en la piel afectada que en la piel normal. En el grupo del tipo lepromatoso, el efecto fué todo lo contrario: las reacciones más fuertes fueron más frecuentes en la piel de apariencia normal que en la piel con lesiones. En un pequeño grupo de clasificación indeterminada no hubo tales diferencias en las reacciones cutáneas a la lepromina.

REFERENCES

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