

QUESTION OF OPTIMAL SITE FOR THE LEPROMIN TEST

TO THE EDITOR:

Replying to the question about the reason for our choice of the skin of the back as the site for the lepromin test, and the possibility that it may be a more suitable site for routine testing than the flexor surface of the forearm, I know of no comparative study of the matter. For years I have used exclusively the back (*región escapular derecha*) for lepromin testing, and the forearm for the Mantoux test.

Some of the reasons for my choice of the back for the lepromin test are as follows:

1. I believe the thicker, firmer skin to be the more suitable for nodular reactions like the Mitsuda. According to my experience it is possible to obtain more clear-cut positive and negative lepromin reactions there than in the thinner, softer skin of the forearm, although I regard the latter site as the better for reactions of the erythematoadematous type.

2. There is more room on the back for testing, when multiple tests are to be made.

3. The patient cannot see what happens to the injections on the back.

Hospital I. Carrasco
Rosario, Argentina

—JOSE M. M. FERNANDEZ

[See the editorial section of this issue for a note on the occasion for the inquiry to which this was the reply.—EDITOR.]