

## On the Significance of the Lepromin Test in Middle Europe<sup>1</sup>

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In the last few years leprosy has regained a certain importance in Middle Europe due to the immigration of millions of workers from countries in which leprosy is still endemic. The incidence of positive lepromin tests and their significance for the diagnosis of leprosy are therefore of practical interest.

We have tested several groups of persons:

(1) Normal controls, i.e. patients of the Basel University Skin Clinic.

(2) Patients with a past history of tuberculosis and patients with an active tubercu-

losis of different organs.

(3) Patients with sarcoidosis.

(4) Healthy persons in contact with leprosy.

(5) Leprosy patients.

Our investigations yielded the following results:

(1) The great majority of healthy adults in Middle Europe are lepromin-negative. There is no significant difference between people immigrated from endemic areas and people originating from Middle Europe.

(2) All patients with active tuberculosis show a much stronger skin reactivity to lepromin than to tuberculin.

(3) All patients with sarcoidosis show a negative lepromin test. This fact permits a clear-cut differential diagnosis between sarcoidosis and tuberculoid leprosy.

<sup>1</sup> The main body of this paper is published in *Hinden, M. Supplementum ad Dermatologica* vol. 140 (1970).

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