

CORRESPONDENCE

This department is for the publication of informal communications that are of interest because they are informative and stimulating, and for the discussion of controversial matters.

Low Doses of Dapsone in the Treatment of Leprosy

TO THE EDITOR:

Recently a number of papers have been published on the question of low doses of dapsone in the treatment of leprosy, and it is clear from a study of these papers that there is no agreement among leprologists as to what constitutes low dosage; hence their conclusions are suspect. The latest example of this confusion is to be found in the paper by Karat *et al* (²) in which the authors consider that a daily dosage of 20 mg constitutes "low doses." I submit that this is not a low daily dose, and I would like to make a plea that leprologists should agree on a maximum figure before drawing conclusions. My recommendation in 1965 (¹)

of a dosage of 5 mg twice a week for reacting patients was based on detailed observations at the Jordan Hospital in Surrey, and I would like to put forward the proposition that leprologists should accept that low doses of dapsone are between 1 mg and 5 mg daily.

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1. JOPLING, W. H. Comments on Dr. Sheskin's paper. *Leprosy Rev.* **36** (1965) 186-187.
2. KARAT, A. B. A., JEEVARATNAM, A., KARAT, S. and RAO, P. S. S. Efficacy of clofazimine in the prophylaxis and suppression of reactive phases in lepromatous leprosy. *Internat. J. Leprosy* **39** (1971) 838-841.