Studies in the Treatment of Malaria

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STUDIES IN THE TREATMENT OF MALARIA

XXIV. THE DISAPPEARANCE OF CRESCENTS UNDER QUININE TREATMENT

BY

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In a previous study (1917) we have referred to various contradictory statements in the literature on this subject. We record here observations made by us on eighty-nine crescent cases.

The cases were divided into three groups according to the daily dose of quinine administered:—

GROUP A. Quinine sulphate in solution orally, grains 20 daily.
(Cases 1394-1413).

GROUP B. Quinine sulphate in solution orally, grains 30 daily.
(Cases 1414-1451).

GROUP C. Quinine sulphate in solution orally, grains 45 daily.
(Cases 1452-1482).

All the cases had crescents in the blood on the day treatment commenced. Blood examinations were made once weekly, thick films being used. As these observations were made in 1916 at the beginning of our work on malaria, information as to place and duration of infection is not available.

The results are given in the table, from which it will be seen that at the end of four weeks' treatment crescents had disappeared from 50 per cent. of cases treated when the daily dose of quinine was grains 20, and from over 90 per cent. when the daily dose was grains 30 or 45.

TABLE

Showing the disappearance of crescents under quinine treatment.

A. Quinine sulphate grains 20 daily. (Cases 1394-1413).

	At beginning of treatment	Week of treatment			
		1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Number of cases observed	20	20	20	20	20
Number of cases showing crescents	20	19	18	13	10
Percentage of cases showing crescents	100 %	95 %	90 %	63 %	50 %

B. Quinine sulphate grains 30 daily. (Cases 1414-1451)

	At beginning of treatment	Week of treatment			
		1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Number of cases observed	38	38	38	38	38
Number of cases showing crescents	38	29	17	8	3
Percentage of cases showing crescents	100 %	76 %	45 %	21 %	8 %

C. Quinine sulphate grains 45 daily. (Cases 1452-1482).

	At beginning of treatment	Week of treatment			
		1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Number of cases observed	31	31	31	31	31
Number of cases showing crescents	31	20	14	11	2
Percentage of cases showing crescents	100 %	65 %	45 %	35 %	6 %

CONCLUSION

Under quinine treatment grains 30 or 45 daily, crescents do not persist in the cutaneous blood in the majority of cases for more than three weeks.

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