

The Malaysian Society of Pathologists : 5th Annual General Meeting and Scientific Meeting

The 5th annual general meeting and scientific meeting was held at the Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur 4 October 1980.

Abstracts of the scientific communications follow.

Prevalence of gentamicin-resistant Gram-negative bacteria in a general hospital

VKE LIM AND F JAMAL (*Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur*) Aerobic Gram-negative bacilli isolated from clinical specimens from the General Hospital, Kuala Lumpur from the 1st January 1979 to 31st December 1979 were tested for gentamicin resistance using a standardised disc test. A total of 217 isolates from 197 patients were found to be resistant to gentamicin. Of these 217 isolates *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* was found to be the most frequent (63 isolates) followed by *Klebsiella* sp (41 isolates), *Acinetobacter* sp (32 isolates), *E. coli* (31 isolates), *Enterobacter* sp (26 isolates) and *Proteus* sp (14 isolates). Gentamicin resistance was highest in *Acinetobacter* sp (15.5%) followed by *Enterobacter* sp (9.7%) and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (9.2%). Gentamicin resistance in *Klebsiella* sp and *E. coli* were 5.8% and 5.1% respectively. Of the 197 patients infected or colonised by the gentamicin-resistant Gram-negative bacilli, 58 were from the Paediatric wards, 48 from the Orthopaedic wards, 41 from the special care units, 24 from the general surgical wards and 21 from the general medical wards. The emergence of gentamicin resistance among Gram-negative bacilli is a significant problem encountered in the General Hospital, Kuala Lumpur. Active measures are therefore required to control and prevent further emergence and spread of these gentamicin-resistant bacteria.

A study of the incidence of syphilis in the blood donor population of the Blood Services Centre, General Hospital, Kuala Lumpur.

VINEETHA DAS, CG LOPEZ AND G DURAISAMY (*Blood Services Centre, General Hospital, Kuala Lumpur*) The incidence of syphilis in the blood donor population of the Blood Services Centre, General Hospital, Kuala Lumpur was studied for a period of 10 years from 1970 to 1980.

A total of 129,685 donors were tested by the VDRL test, of which 2,958 (2.3%) were positive. This was confirmed by the FTA or TPHA tests. There were a total of 7 false positive cases.

Comparative incidence between donor groups was also done for a period of 3 years from July 1977 to June 1980. The breakdown showed that out of 28,660 civilians tested, 301 (1.1%) were found to have a positive VDRL test. 9 positives (0.1%) were found among 6,737 armed forces personnel investigated, 47

positives (0.7%) among 6,680 police personnel and 37 positives (1.7%) among 2,133 prisoners.

A similar comparison was also done on different racial groups. There was an incidence of 0.86% of positive VDRL in 30,364 Malays tested, 0.44% in 10,598 Chinese, 0.98% in 8,677 Indians and 0.20% in 1,975 persons of other races.

In spite of a marked increase in the number of blood donors over the years, the number of new cases of syphilis seemed to have decreased, as would be shown in this report. The relatively low and falling incidence of positivity indicates a major advantage of a non-remunerated voluntary blood donor system on which the National Blood Transfusion Service is based. One of the dangers of fresh blood transfusion has thus been minimized.

Management of pseudotumour in two haemophiliac patients

N THANALETCHIMY, CG LOPEZ AND MOKHTAR B. NOR (*Blood Services Centre, General Hospital, Kuala Lumpur*) A 38-year old Chinese patient with severe Haemophilia A was admitted to the General Hospital, Kuala Lumpur on 16.3.78 complaining of a large haemorrhagic cystic tumour over the left buttock measuring 30 x 20 cm. He was treated with cryoprecipitate with some improvement. Subsequently, he developed two sinuses from which considerable blood loss occurred. He was admitted to the University Hospital, Cardiff, U.K. for surgery which was successfully carried out on 6.2.80 under heavy Factor VIII concentrate cover. He was discharged on 30.3.80 but required further follow-up and treatment in Kuala Lumpur until 8.6.80.

An 18-year old Malay patient with a long standing large pseudotumour of the left ankle similarly received surgical treatment in Cardiff.

The cause, difficulties of management and complications of pseudotumours will be discussed.

Plasma cell granuloma — a case report

N AZIZAH, J BOSCO AND CY TAN (*Departments of Pathology and Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur*) Plasma cell granuloma of the lung is a rare pulmonary tumour. However, it is the most common tumour mass found in children under the age of 16.

Cough, haemoptysis, chest pain and increasing dyspnoea draw attention to its presence.

A case of a 14-year old Iban girl with plasma cell granuloma is presented.

Amyloidosis in chronic heart disease

LM LOOI AND K PRATHAP (*Department of Pathology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur*) Amyloidosis is believed to be uncommon in the non-aboriginal population of West Malaysia. In an attempt to determine the prevalence of amyloidosis, congo red screening was carried out at the University Hospital, Kuala Lumpur, on 12,742 routine surgical specimens received in the two and a half year period from 1st January 1978 to 31st July 1980.

Nineteen out of 110 atrial appendages contained amorphous eosinophilic material exhibiting the histochemical and electron microscopical features of amyloid. Seventeen were left atrial appendages excised during mitral valvotomy while 2 were right atrial appendages from patients with atrial septal defects.

As the ages of these patients ranged from 25 to 52 years, the amyloid could not be attributed to senile amyloidosis. Cardiac amyloidosis in these cases was probably related to mechanical dysfunction.

An assessment of liver biopsy in the evaluation of conjugated hyperbilirubinaemia in early infancy

E SUMITHRAN (*Department of Pathology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur*) Consecutive liver biopsies from 124 infants with neonatal obstructive jaundice seen at the University Hospital were received with a view to correlating the histological diagnosis with the eventual clinical course of the disorder. There were misdiagnoses in 15 per cent of cases. Critical retrospective review of the material indicated that the rate of error could be significantly reduced to less than 5 per cent by being aware of diagnostic pitfalls. Liver biopsy provides a reliable tool for differentiating biliary obstruction from hepatocellular disease in newborns and young infants. The importance of identifying the hepatic lesion in a needle biopsy lies in sparing an infant with

hepatocellular disease the risk inherent in anaesthesia and surgery.

Clinicopathological review of granulosa-stromal cell tumours of the ovary

SF ALHADY (*Department of Pathology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur*) Thirty five granulosa-stromal cell tumours of the ovary were diagnosed in the Department of Pathology, University Hospital in the 13-year period from 1968 to 1980. Eleven were pure granulosa cell tumours, two were granulosa-theca cell tumours, four were thecomas and eighteen fibromas. These tumours were critically reviewed with regard to age, race, gross appearance, histological characteristics and status of the endometrium. A surprising finding was that despite the fact that some workers maintain that histological grading is of little prognostic value, there was quite good correlation between the histological grade of the granulosa cell tumours and their clinical behaviour.

Ovarian dysgerminoma: a clinicopathological study of cases seen at the University Hospital over a 13-year period

AR SABARIAH (*Department of Pathology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur*) Nine patients with dysgerminoma of the ovary were seen at the University Hospital in the 13-year period from 1968 to 1980. The patients had other interesting associated features. In two cases the dysgerminoma was associated with endodermal sinus tumour of the ovary. One patient had an associated autoimmune haemolytic anaemia. Another patient subsequently had two uneventful pregnancies. One patient had supraclavicular lymph node metastases but is now well following radiotherapy. The significance of these associated features are discussed as well as the morphological features of the tumour and the effect of lymphoid infiltration on the prognosis.