ENHANCEMENT OF NET SODIUM AND WATER ABSORPTION IN ACUTE HUMAN CHOLERA BY INTESTINAL GLUCOSE LAVAGE

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Net sodium and water fluxes in the small intestine were studied in patients with acute cholera by means of nonabsorbable marker techniques. A multilumen polyethylene tube swallowed by the patient was positioned in the jejunum or ileum. A solution matching the electrolyte concentrations of the the intestinal contents was infused through the first port of the triple lumen tube. BSP, PEG and Cr⁵¹ were used as nonabsorbable markers.

Samples were collected at each of two ports distal to infusion at a constant rate. Collection periods were 1 hour in length.

Net fluxes were determined in the absence of glucose, in the presence of glucose, and again in the absence of glucose.

In 15 patients with acute cholera, 9 jejunal and 6 ileal studies were done. Glucose produced a significant change in net water and sodium flux out of the lumen over the 20 cm study segment.

Studies on the same patients in convalescence failed to demonstrate any significant effect of glucose on net water or sodium fluxes.

Three colon studies on convalescent patients have shown only a slight negative effect of glucose on sodium and water flux over the 20 cm study segment.









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SYMPOSIUM ON CHOLERA

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