CURRENT PROGRESS IN THE CHOLERA TOXOID FIELD TRIAL IN BANGLADESH

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The Cholera Research Laboratory in Dacca, Bangladesh is fieldtesting a prototype cholera toxoid. This purified material was formed by glutaraldehyde treatment of purified enterotoxin and contains protamine and aluminium hydroxide adjuvants. Cholera toxoid causes fewer local side effects than either DPT or tetanus toxoids. The serum antitoxin response of rural Bengalees to a 100 microgram dose is greater than the response of American volunteers. The serum vibriocidal titer doubles in response to the minute amounts of somatic antigen contaminating the toxoid.

The current field trial includes approximately 34,500 children and adult women immunized with two doses of toxoid given six weeks apart and an equal number immunized with adult-dose diphtheria-tetanus toxoid as a placebo on a double-blind basis.

An unusual increase in the cholera case rate in July and August enabled the Cholera Research Laboratory to evaluate the effectiveness of toxoid after only one injection. The cholera case rate continues to be high and a valid field-trial is expected.

We intend to use prospective studies of the neighborhood in which index cholera cases live to establish the efficacy of toxoid throughout the clinical spectrum of cholera including mild cases of diarrhea and asymptomatic infections.

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