

BI-DIRECTIONAL FLUXES OF THE Na^+ ION IN CHOLERA PATIENTS IN THE ACUTE AND CONVALESCENT STATE

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In Manila in the late summer of 1965, using an Na^+ ion isotope bolus technique developed by Commander T. G. Mitchell MC USN of NAMRU-2, studies were conducted on cholera patients in the acute phase of the disease and again in convalescence. Net Na^+ ion fluxes were also measured by flame photometer. From these two observations the unidirectional flux from plasma to gut lumen can be calculated.

It was found that the plasma to gut lumen flux had an average value which did not differ significantly in the acute phase from the convalescent value. Net values were positive (movement from gut lumen to plasma) in convalescence and negative in the acute phase of the disease. The gut lumen to plasma flux of the Na^+ ion was significantly lower in the acute phase of the disease than it was in convalescence.

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