

USE OF ANTIBIOTICS IN CHOLERA INCLUDING CLINICAL TRIAL OF AMPICILLIN

Robert S. Northrup

Antibiotics initially were rejected as therapy for cholera. Antibiotic administration did not immediately stop diarrhoea and thus was deemed useless. Later, after careful, well-controlled trials of antibiotics were carried out in Dacca, Calcutta and Manila, the efficacy of antibiotics in reducing the total volume and the duration of diarrhoea became obvious and the place of these agents in cholera therapy was assured.

This review summarizes the available studies of antibiotics in cholera, both oral and parenteral. Tetracycline emerges as the standard antibiotic treatment, possessing advantages over chloramphenicol (chloromycetin), the next most widely used. Studies of modes of administration, ranging from lavage to capsule, and doses, from high to low, are presented showing that administration of a simple capsule at standard dosage levels is as effective as more elaborate and drastic regimens.

Finally the paper presents a report on studies of ampicillin in cholera, currently in progress. At the time of this writing, ampicillin appears to have a place in cholera therapy for patients in whom tetracycline or chloramphenicol administration might be undesirable.

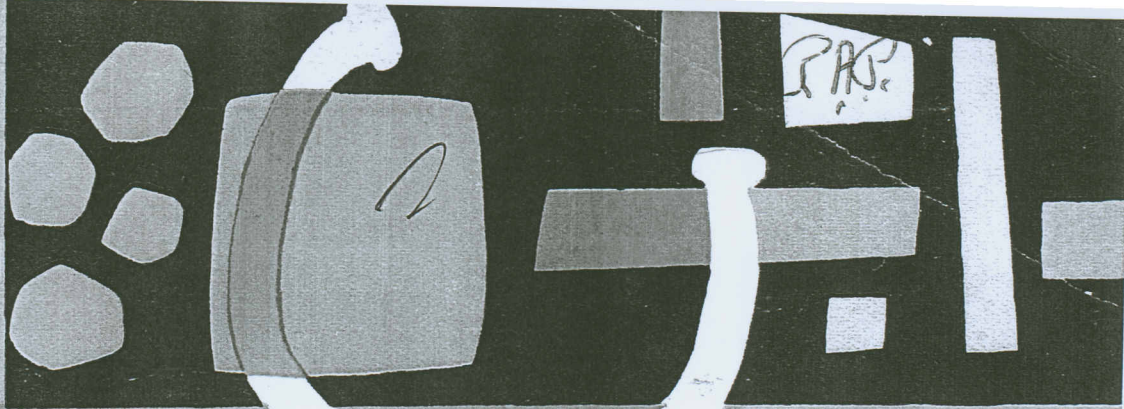
PRELIMINARY STUDIES ON PHAGE FOR THE TREATMENT OF CHOLERA

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The role of phage in the treatment of cholera has remained undecided for a long time. The Institute of Public Health and the Pak-SEATO Cholera Research Laboratory have, therefore, undertaken a joint study hoping to decide this issue once for all.

When a single *V. cholerae* is simultaneously attacked by a large number of specific phage particles, it undergoes immediate disintegration and lysis. Advantage has been taken of this phenomenon in treating six selected severe cholera patients, whose diarrhoeal pattern could be predicted with reasonable confidence, on the basis of past experience, when such patients are treated with intravenous fluid therapy

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