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Herpetic Keratitis: Persistence of Viral Particles Despite Topical and Systemic Antiviral Therapy

Report of Two Cases and Review of the Literature

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OBJECTIVE - First, to characterize the histologic features of corneal buttons taken from two patients with chronic active herpetic stromal keratitis. Both eyes had suffered frequent and prolonged viral epithelial recurrences despite topical and systemic antiviral therapy and developed uniquely rapid deposition of chalklike stromal depositis. Second, to determine the clinical outcome of surgical intervention in eyes with such a pattern of herpetic disease.

DESIGN. - Patients received topical antiviral medication and 200 to 400 mg of acyclovir five times daily for 2 or 5 months until penetrating keratoplasty. They received tapered doses of acyclovir after surgery. Corneal buttons were evaluated with light microscopy and electron microscopy.

RESULTS. - Light microscopy of the specimens revealed calcium in the area of the chalklike deposits and a few cocci in the deep stroma. Electron microscopy showed numerous herpetic viral particles at various stages of maturity, including completely enveloped organisms, in the basal cells and keratocytes, and a few cocci in basal cells. Apart from one minor recurrence of a dendritic ulcer, both patients were free of herpetic disease at 13 and 22 months, required little to no medication, and had clear grafts.

CONCLUSIONS. - Rapid calcium deposition in herpetic corneas may indicate disease of sufficient severity to warrant surgical intervention for removal of a stromal viral reservoir. Such intervention can stop further recurrences of keratitis that is poorly controlled by antiviral therapy. Such chronically diseased eyes may also harbor unsuspected bacterial infection.

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Long-acting injectable bromocriptine (Parlodel LAR*) in the chronic treatment of prolactin-secreting macroadenomas

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OBJECTIVE: To evaluate the efficacy and tolerability of Parlodel LAR (Sandoz, Basel, Switzerland), a long-acting injectable bromocriptine, in PRL-secreting macroadenomas.

DESIGN: Eleven patients with macroprolactinomas were studied in an academic environment in an open and prospective protocol. Ten patients were followed for 6 months and 8 for 1 year. Fifty to 200 mg IM of Parlodel LAR were administered every 28 days.

RESULTS: At the end of the 1st month, 64% of the patients had PRL suppression of >75% of baseline values. After 1 year, 88% of the cases had PRL suppression of >90%. Persistent PRL normalization was seen in three cases. Tumor shrinkage was seen in 64% of the patients on day 5, in 73% on day 28, and in 90% after 6 months of treatment. Early visual field improvement was seen in 83% of the cases. All patients had improvement of clinical symptoms.

CONCLUSION: Parlodel LAR is well tolerated and very effective in the long-term treatment of patients with PRL-secreting macroadenomas.

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Differentation of *Toxoplasma gondii* from closely related coccidia by riboprint analysis and a surface antigen gene polymerase chain reaction

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ABSTRACT. The tachyzoite of the human pathogen *Toxoplasma gondii* is morphologically indistinguishable from the proliferative stages of some other zoonotic coccidia, including *Sarcocystis*. To determine the identity of such coccidia obtained from human tissues and others sources, we compared riboprints (through restriction enzyme analysis of the polymerase chain reaction [PCR]-amplified small subunit rRNA gene) of the following protozoa: the RH and ts-4 strains of *T. gondii*, lines OH3 and S11, which are two recently isolated *T. gondii*-like parasites from Brazil, *Neospora caninum*, *Sarcocystis* species, and the malarial parasite *Plasmodium berghei*. In addition, the protozoan genomes were examined by PCR for homologs of surface antigen genes of *T. gondii*, and by Southern hybridization to the heterologous rRNA gene probe pSM 389. Strains OH3, S11, ts-4, and RH shared identical riboprints, and OH3, S11, and ts-4 have p22 and p30 surface antigen gene structures similar to RH. In contrast, riboprints for *N. caninum* and *T. gondii* differ with respect to *Dde* 1 sites, and moreover, their genomes vary significantly from one another at both the p22 and p30 gene loci. The riboprints of *Sarcocystis* and *P. berghei* differ markedly from *T. gondii* and *N. caninum* and from each other. *Bam* HI pSM 389 restriction fragment length polymorphisms differentiate ts-4 from RH, OH3, and S11. Our results confirm that OH3 and S11 are indeed *T. gondii*, but that *N. caninum* and *T. gondii* are likely to be separate species, thereby resolving previous uncertainties concerning the identity of these parasites. Together, the variation in riboprints and surface antigen gene structure reflects the phylogenetic diversity among these coccidia, and in addition, confirms the value of riboprinting in the identification of apicomplexan parasites such as *T. gondii*.

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