the sugar, which was initially less than 5 mg./100 ml., rose to 72 mg./100 ml. Again no serious side-effects were noted.

In spite of the apparent good initial response to Penbritin, the patient subsequently died. At autopsy he was found to have a pocket of pus in his posterior fossa from which the organism was isolated.

REFERENCES


PERNICIOUS ANAEMIA IN A YOUNG ADULT

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Pernicious anaemia is rare in young adults. Davis (1944) reviewed six large series of patients diagnosed as pernicious anaemia and, out of a total of 1,532, only four were below the age of 20 years; the inadequacy of data necessary for a diagnosis of Addisonian anaemia in most of the cases previously described in young patients was noted. Wilkinson (1949) found an incidence of 2.8% of patients less than 30 years of age among 1,600 when first diagnosed; only one patient was under 21 years, and 67% were over the age of 50 years. Davidson (1952) in his Edinburgh series of 135 patients (1944-48) reported 42% between the ages of 60 and 80 years when diagnosed. He later (1957) gave an incidence of over 50% occurring over 60 years of age in 100 cases (1950-56). Lambert, Pranker and Smellie (1961) reviewed earlier publications on pernicious anaemia in childhood. They considered malabsorption of importance in the differential diagnosis and observed that fat-balance tests had been carried out in very few cases; the demonstration of intrinsic-factor deficiency is essential for the true diagnosis of pernicious anaemia, and they noted that in previous reports this examination had very rarely been carried out; in only four cases amongst those previously recorded was there adequate evidence of absence of intrinsic factor together with a satisfactory response to anti-pernicious anaemia therapy. They reported three recent cases diagnosed by modern techniques using labelled vitamin B_{12}. The authors similarly investigated two further cases of juvenile pernicious anaemia in siblings, and referred to a further similar report on two siblings by Leikin (1960).

Recently, Metz, Randall and Kniep (1961) described three cases of pernicious anaemia in young Bantu females.

Owing to the rarity of this condition in the young and the importance of precise diagnosis it was considered worthwhile to record the following case; according to our records this is the first such case below the age of 25 years to be admitted to this hospital during the last 14 years.

Case Report

N.M., an unmarried Irish woman aged 24 years, was admitted to this hospital in December 1960 with weakness of the legs and difficulty in walking. She had been a barmaid until one year before; her alcoholic intake had been 'several shorties on two or three nights a week' and she usually smoked 20 to 30 cigarettes a day. Her father died at 42 years of age of diabetes mellitus and a paternal aunt also had diabetes mellitus. There was no family history of anaemia.

During the last year she had noticed shortness of breath on exertion with slight swelling of the ankles in the evenings; there was also a cough with a little yellow sputum. Her appetite was poor, there was no indigestion but she complained of increased thirst. Three months before admission she saw her doctor with backache and painful frequent micturition; this was treated firstly with sulphonamides and finally responded fully to injections of streptomycin for 12 days.

One month before she had gone to bed with 'flu'; she had pyrexia, backache and aching all over. There was no further frequency of micturition but she thought her urine was cloudy and 'chocolate' coloured, and this appearance gradually cleared after about two weeks. One week after being in bed she stated that she suddenly became numb from the waist downwards and could not walk properly—she fell twice and felt as though...
The outstanding clinical feature on admission was that of a neurological disturbance, and the signs were predominantly those of a severe polyneuritis accompanied by evidence of posterior column involvement with no indication of affection of the lateral columns.

The initial history suggested the possibilities of porphyria, diabetes mellitus or alcoholism, but subsequent detailed investigations showed her to have the characteristic features of Addisonian anemia. The family history of diabetes mellitus is of interest since a close familial association has been recorded by Joslin, Root, White and Marble (1959), who noted that in 500 consecutive cases of diabetes, pernicious anemia was present in a parent or sibling in 15 instances.

Of the few cases in childhood and young adults in the past diagnosed as pernicious anemia it is likely that most were true megaloblastic anemias but few were true Addisonian anemias.

In young patients with megaloblastic anemia it is essential to rule out malabsorption as the cause. In a leading article (Lancet, 1961), it is stated that 'the commonest cause of megaloblastic anemia in childhood is overt or latent steatorrhoea'. Fat absorption tests in our patient were normal and further confirmation was obtained by the 131I labelled triolein uptake. Barium meal followed through and a jejunal biopsy were also normal.

The exact diagnosis is of considerable importance, as such patients, in accordance with our existing knowledge, will need lifelong substitutional therapy.
Recent investigations have added to our means of establishing the true diagnosis of pernicious anaemia. Until recently the cardinal laboratory features in pernicious anaemia were the characteristic blood picture, megaloblastic marrow and histamine-fast achlorhydria.

The serum vitamin $B_{12}$ level in our patient was abnormally low; this estimation may bring to light examples of neurological disease due to vitamin $B_{12}$ deficiency: this is amplified by the clinical picture resembling that of the patients reported by Jewesbury (1954).

Absolute achlorhydria was confirmed by the augmented histamine test meal, and the most important feature, absence of intrinsic factor production, was confirmed by the Schilling test carried out before and after giving the patient intrinsic factor.

The patient responded fully to vitamin $B_{12}$ therapy.

**Summary**

Pernicious anaemia is recorded in a patient aged 24 years, presenting chiefly with neurological manifestations.

The rarity of this disease in young patients is pointed out and reference is made to the literature. The importance of precise diagnosis aided by newer techniques is stressed owing to the necessary lifelong substitution therapy required.

We would like to thank Dr. P. B. S. Fowler for his co-operation and allowing us to study his patient; Dr. R. A. Parkins, who performed the intestinal biopsy; and Dr. A. Jacobs, who did the gastric biopsy.

**REFERENCES**


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**HYPERTROPHIC PULMONARY OSTEOARTHRITIS**

**ASSOCIATED WITH PULMONARY METASTASES**

**REMOVED SURGICALLY**

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CLUBBING of the fingers and toes of the most advanced type, associated with thickening of the bones of the carpus and tarsus, painful swollen joints, and with periosteal thickening of the long bones of the limbs, is a well-recognized complication of many chest diseases. This degree of clubbing, or as it is more usually called, hypertrophic pulmonary osteoarthropathy (H.P.O.A.), is found most commonly in cases of bronchial carcinoma, where the incidence in a large series was up to 2% (Semple and McLuskie, 1955). H.P.O.A. has also been observed in association with pulmonary metastases of many kinds arising from primary neoplasms outside the chest. Metastases in the lungs arising from primary osteogenic sarcomata are more often accompanied by the development of H.P.O.A. than is spread from other non-pulmonary primaries (Mendlowitz, 1942; Gibbs, Schiller and Stovin, 1960).

The case to be described is that of a young girl...