

ABSTRACTS

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Distribution of Various Diseases in Thailand, Aspects of Medical Education.

Suwanwela, C., 15 (1) : 5-32.

The author collected statistic data concerning distribution of various diseases from hospitals and health centers throughout the Kingdom. Death rate in infant below one year of age had declined greatly in the provinces as well as in metropolitan areas from around 300 per 1000 births in 1940 to 42.80 in 1970. The maternal death rate, however, showed a different incidence in the rural areas (45 provinces) and Bangkok, having been 3.71 per 1000 births in the former and 0.54, in the latter in 1970. The most common disease in Thailand both in the provinces and in metropolitan areas was gastrointestinal disorder which was found between 9-27% of the total admissions in various hospitals. Next in line were infectious diseases which were somewhat more common in provincial hospitals than in hospitals in Bangkok. Special health problems were nutritonal inadequacy, malaria, tuberculosis, filariasis, yaws, leprosy, venereal diseases and helminthiasis.

The author stressed the necessity of providing cores of medical curriculum involving the basic sciences, a special core concerning medical problems in Thailand and a core in general medicine so that a Thai graduate shall be able to cope up with local health problems as well as being an undifferentiated doctor for further training in specialized field.

(33 references, 8 tables).

Fluorescent Treponemal Antibodies in the Cerebrospinal fluid ; Evaluation of Sensitivity and Specificity

Vejjajiva, S.,

Pranich, K., 15 (2) : 102-109.

Indirect fluorescent treponemal antibodies method was performed on cerebrospinal fluid from 264 patients. The patients were divided into six groups. Group 1 consisted of 203 patients with known central nervous system diseases other than neurosyphilis. The cerebrospinal fluid VDRL, RPCF (Reiter's Protein Complement fixation) and FTA tests in this group were all non-reactive. Group 2 of 25 patients with similar clinical diagnoses and with non-reactive serological tests for VDRL, RPCF and FTA also had negative results in all tests for the

CSF. Group 3 (16 patients) with a diagnosis of syphilis but assumed to have no CSS involvement had serology positive in all three tests; the VDRL, RPCF and FTA tests in the CSF were negative. Group 4 (6 cases) consisted of patients who had immunologic positive reactions for syphilis in the blood. Clinically, they were suspected to have neurosyphilis. The CSF - VDRL, RPCF and FTA tests were all positive. Group 5 of 10 patients were similar to patients in group 4 having serology positive in the three tests; also with clinical manifestation of neurosyphilis. In this group, the CSF - VDRL and RPCF tests were negative but the FTA test was positive in 9 patients. In the last patient, all of the three tests gave mild reaction. The last group of 4 patients whom definite clinical diagnosis was not known and no serological tests were performed, the FTA test alone was positive in the CSF of all cases. (One of the four cases had eosinophilic meningitis) From this study it was concluded that the FTA test was highly helpful in the diagnosis of neurosyphilis even other tests which were very specific such as VDRL and RPCF have failed. The FTA was superior to the VDRL and RPCF techniques in the diagnosis of neurosyphilis in this study.

(12 references, 2 tables, 1 chart)

Diagnosis of Rupture Membrane by Nile blue Sulfate

Kaosakul, K.,

Uamkul, S., 15 (2) 110 - 115.

Premature rupture of membrane prior to onset of labor is a common problem to Obstetricians, and the definite diagno-

sis can be difficult. The authors reported an easy test using Nile Blue Sulfate to 60 aspirated vaginal fluid (as well as with amniotic fluid from amniocentesis). The neutral fat in desquamated cells thought to be derived from sebaceous glands of the fetus and free fat globules reacted with the stain and became bright orange. The study showed a 93% positive result for the presence of neutral fat in the cells and 100% for the presence of free fat globules in the material.

(14 references, 1 table).

Catecholamines in the Brain

Suwanwela, C., 15 (2) : 116 - 127.

A review study concerning recent advances of brain neurobiochemistry, neurophysiology and therapeutics of norepinephrine, epinephrine and dopamine.

(37 references).

Intrauterine Devices

Virutamasen, P., 15 (2) : 128 - 136.

The author reviewed literature concerning the mechanism, application and complications of IUD. The actual mechanism of action was still controversial. Either failure of implantation through some influences on endometrial and/or myometrial behaviors of the coil, or interference with reproductive process at the tubal level causing rapid transport of the ovum into uterus, may be responsible.

(39 references).

Intracranial Neoplasms in Chulalongkorn Hospital: A study of 253 case.

Suwanwela, C.,

Hongsaprapas, C., 15 (3) 157 - 162.

253 neoplasms of the intracranial structures recorded in the neurosurgical

unit, Chulalongkorn Hospital during the period from Jan. 1962–Feb. 1970 were analysed. The diagnoses of 226 tumors were proven by histologic sections. Gliomas were the most common intracranial tumor having been 94 cases in this series. Contrary to the western records, astrocytoma was the most common glioma in all age groups being 37 cases as compare to 23 glioblastomas. There were 16 medulloblastomas, 15 ependymomas, 2 oligodendrogliomas and one ependymal cyst in this group of 94 gliomas. The next most common tumor was meningioma which was found in 39 instances. The incidence of pituitary adenoma and neurinoma was similar to the west, having been found in 18 and 8 instances respectively in this series. Craniopharyngioma and pinealoma however were more common, having been found in 8 and 5 patients respectively. Metastatic tumors were recorded in 45 instances. The intracranial neoplasms in Thailand were found in all ages, from five months to 76 yearold. The most common peak was between 5-20 yearold. All medulloblastomas were found in children below the age of 14 and the tumor was the second commonest childhood tumor next from the astrocytoma. These two tumors were found in 16 and 20 patients respectively. The incidences of other tumors, the locations and age-groups of various intracranial neoplasms were not different from other reports.

(9 references, 3 tables and 14 charts).

Clinical Diagnosis of Intracranial Neoplasma.

Suwanwela, C., 15 (3) : 174 - 183.

Major clinical manifestations of 155 patients with intracranial tumors admitted into the neurosurgical unit, Department of Surgery, Chulalongkorn Hospital were studied. The five main subjective symptoms were headache (46.4%) convulsions (13.2%), ataxia (12.6%) paralysis (12.0%) and blurring of vision (7.3%). The leading symptom in the majority of cases in the series was headache (86.4%). In this group of 111 patients, vomiting was associated with headache in 55 instances while both vomiting and concomittant visual disturbances were found in 28 cases. Those patients who did not present headache usually had paralysis and/or convulsions (27 in 44 cases).

Papilledema was recorded in 48.3% of cases. The cerebrospinal fluid examination were performed only in 58 patients and increase CSF protein was found in 29.3%.

(7 references, 5 table).

Diagnostic Value of X-ray in Intracranial Neoplasma.

Suwanwela, N.,

Suwanwela, C., 15 (3) : 184 - 200.

116 patients with intracranial neoplasms, had routine X-ray examination in Department of Radiology, Chulalongkorn Hospital. Normal skull X-ray were reported in 49 instances (29.5%). Abnormalities included signs of increased intra-

cranial pressure (70.5%), local signs such as bone erosions, calcification and hyperostosis (33.1%) and signs of both abnormalities (10.2%). Benign extracerebral tumors gave the highest percentage of X-ray abnormalities (84.0%). Next common X-ray abnormalities were found in malignant infratentorial tumors (80.0%). X-ray examination also assisted in the diagnosis for different types of tumors in certain locations such as in pituitary adenoma, craniopharyngioma, pinealoma and meningioma.

(14 references, 9 table 6 figures)

Electroencephalographic Value in Intracranial Tumors.

Hongsladarom, T.,

Suwanwela, C., 15 (3) : 201 - 208.

Electroencephalography was performed in 64 patients with intracranial neoplasms in the neurology unit, Department of Medicine, Chulalongkorn Hospital. The method was particularly useful only for screening patients for further investigation. 89% of patients with intracranial neoplasms showed abnormal EEG. Supratentorial tumors gave the best result, having been 91% of the total cases. The locations of lesion were correctly diagnosed in only 53% of cases. All pituitary tumors showed normal EEG pattern.

(10 references, 3 tables)

Diagnostic Value of Radioisotope Scintigraphy for Intracranial neoplasma.

Poshayachinda, M.,

Poshayachinda, W., 15 (3) : 209-218.

During the period from October 1967 to January 1970, 90 patients with intra-

cranial neoplasms were studied by radioisotope scintigraphy in the radioisotope unit, Department of Radiology, Chulalongkorn Hospital. Abnormal scan was found in 78 patients (82%) of the cases. Supratentorial tumors gave the best brain scan result. The correct diagnosis of pituitary tumors was obtained in only two out of eight patients. Metastatic lesions were correctly diagnosed in 18 out of 19 cases.

(6 references, 2 tables, 6 figures).

Special Radiologic Investigations and Their Diagnostic Value in Intracranial Tumors.

Chianpradit, K., 15 (3) 219 - 227.

The author studied 199 patients with intracranial neoplasms who underwent special investigations in the Department of Radiology, Chulalongkorn Hospital during the period, from 1962-1969. The results of angiography and air-study for primary supratentorial tumors were positive in 93% and 100%, and types of tumors were correctly diagnosed in 61% and 15% respectively. Meningioma gave the best diagnostic result in angiographic study. For primary infratentorial tumors the correct diagnostic results were obtained in 87% and 67% respectively by pneumoventriculography and angiography. Among 17 patients with sella tursica neoplasms, the carotid angiography showed a positive finding only in 9 instances, while an air-study was 92% positive in 12 patients performed.

(10 references, 3 tables).

Retinoblastoma.**Leelawongse, N.,****Pilakasiri, S., 15 (3) 234 - 249.**

During the six year period from January 1963 to December 1968, 27 patients with retinoblastomas were admitted into the Department of Ophthalmology, Chulalongkorn Hospital. All patients were under 5 years of age. There were 17 boys and 10 girls. Bilateral involvement was found in 4 cases (15%). Siblings were recorded in two patients, one had bilateral involvement. 59% of the patients

had exophthalmos as a presenting symptom while 7% had signs of ophthalmitis. 18 cases had abnormal X-ray pictures of the orbit. The bone marrow examination was diagnostic in 6 of the twelve cases. Malignant lymphomas were diagnosed in two patients. The important pathways of spreading were through the choroid and its vessels and by direct extension to the optic nerve. Metastases were found in 10 of the twelve patients.

(18 references, 6 tables)
