

22 September 1965.

CLINICAL SERVICES LETTER No. 55

TO MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

Dear Doctor,

GAMMA GLOBULIN

Supplies of gamma globulin may now be obtained by medical practitioners, free of cost and without limitations as to use, from and on the authority of the haematologist, pathologist, or medical officer in charge of the transfusion services at hospitals maintaining blood banks.

The following notes are based on a review by Dr J. G. Norman, Palmerston North, of recent Australian experience:

Pregnant Rubella Contacts

Standard dose: 20 ml.

Period of risk: First 16 weeks of pregnancy.

Infective Hepatitis

Prophylactic dose: Average adult, 5 ml.

Child, 2 ml.

The disease is liable to be particularly severe with infants under 12 months, children with a concurrent illness, girls at puberty, and pregnant and post-menopausal women, and the full prophylactic dose should be used in such cases.

In healthy children half the prophylactic dose is recommended, in order to promote the development of active immunity.

Measles

Within five days of exposure, attenuation may be attempted by giving 0.025 to 0.1 ml per pound of body weight.

After five days much larger doses may be necessary.

Agammaglobulinaemia

Maintenance dose, 0.3 ml per pound of body weight monthly. Larger doses may be required, depending on clinical progress and serum gamma globulin estimations. Two doses should be given in the first month to ensure that the gamma globulin level does not fall below 150 mg per 100 ml.

Poliomyelitis

For non-immune contacts of a poliomyelitis case: 20 ml as soon as possible after exposure.

Active immunisation with vaccine should be commenced six weeks afterwards.

[P.T.O.]

Chickenpox

In certain patients, chickenpox may run a severe and sometimes fatal course. Prevention cannot be expected, but attenuation may be possible with a dose of 0.1 to 0.2 ml per pound of body weight, and is desirable in infants under three months, children under treatment with steroids, and adults.

Herpes Zoster

Benefit has been claimed from the administration of gamma globulin, but a recent Australian survey has failed to substantiate this.

Mumps

Ordinary gamma globulin appears to be of no value in the prophylaxis of mumps or orchitis.

Other Conditions

Gamma globulin is useful in preventing recurrent infections in nephrosis, in myelomatosis and the macroglobulinaemias, and in hypogammaglobulinaemia.

URINE TESTING IN DIABETIC CONTROL

(Therapeutic Notes No. 56, 12 July 1965)

- (a) The instructions supplied with glucose oxidase test strips must be followed accurately. Oxygen is necessary for the reaction to take place. The test strip should not be dropped in the urine.
- (b) Glucose solution for checking must be prepared at least 30 minutes before use. Freshly prepared solutions are apt to give low readings.

Yours faithfully,

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