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Immunological Study In Amphetamine Addicts Suffering From Chronic Osteomyelitis Of The Jaws

I. Humoral Immunity

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Oral immunity was studied in 54 subjects. Six of them were amphetamine addicts suffering from chronic osteomyelitis of the jaws. The aggressive clinical course of the disease together with the results were compared with those of four patients suffering from chronic osteomyelitis without history of addiction, 26 addicts not suffering from chronic osteomyelitis of the jaws and 18 normal individuals.

Medical and dental complications of amphetamine (Maxton Forte) addiction may involve multiple organ system and oral lesions ¹⁻⁴. Infection was found to be common, among addicts and may be caused by injection of contaminated material. Infection may be local or remote, involving the soft tissues, bone, lungs, and heart ³.

Hematogenous osteomyelitis has been found to occur as a complication of drug abuse ²⁻⁶. Chronic osteomyelitis of the cervical spine has been reported to occur, in addicts, in the absence of recognizable source of infective organism ⁴.

In studying the medical complications in chronic heroin addicts, Brown ⁷ demonstrated abnormalities in both humoral and cellular immune systems. Those patients with chronic addiction were considered one of the high risk groups to develop Acquired Immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) ⁸. Approximately half of all cases of AIDS have been reported to be intravenous drug abusers ⁸.

The aim of this work is to study one of the high risk groups, the parental drug abusers (amphetamine addicts) suffering from chronic osteomyelitis of the jaws, to reveal the humoral immunological disorders.

Material And Methods

This study included 54 individuals, who were subdivided into four groups:

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