

Physician Believes Gamma Globulin Lack Causes Many Unexplained Infant Deaths

By DELOS SMITH
United Press Science Editor
New York —(U.P.)— A physician whose own "healthy" baby was found dead in her crib, is advocating a bold, new program to prevent sudden deaths among babies who appear to be in perfect health.

The program calls for examining the blood of every baby at birth for gamma globulin content and if the baby has none or little, to inject him with gamma globulin. He reasoned thus:

1. Babies rarely, if ever, are "smothered" or "suffocated" in their cribs. The reason so many are found dead under crib covers is a deep instinct to "hide away while gravely ill."

2. These sudden, totally unexpected deaths are due to fast-acting, overwhelming infections. The babies are "overwhelmed" because their blood is deficient in gamma globulin which is the blood constituent that contains "antibodies" against disease-causing micro organisms.

Exhaustive Study
Dr. F. J. Thompson, Whittier, Calif., began an exhaustive study of "sudden death" in healthy infants after "we found our baby girl, three months old, dead un-

der the covers. To our knowledge she had never been ill a moment, aside from feeding problems, and she was healthy looking as a baby could be. She had no cough, fever, cyanosis, or respiratory difficulties." Yet the autopsy showed she had died of pneumonia.

The first thing he found out was "there has been no plausible explanation for these sudden deaths, and the subject is ripe for inquiry."

But by assembling autopsy records of hundreds of such cases, he found that the cause of death was never "smothering" or "suffocation," but almost always massive infections of the lungs, many taking the various indefinite forms which physicians lump as "atypical" (not typical) pneumonia.

Infection to Blame
The quickness with which these babies are "overwhelmed" by infection — in many cases in a matter of a few hours — pointed both to very high susceptibility and to a complete lack of bodily defenses against infection.

Babies get antibodies from their mothers. This gamma globulin gives only "passive" immunity because it wears off after a few

months. Meanwhile, the baby's body chemistry is forming gamma globulin of its own, which is lasting. Thompson's studies demonstrated that not all babies come into the world protected against infections by "maternal antibodies" and not all babies develop their own antibodies quickly and efficiently. His argument was that these are the babies who are subject to sudden death while appearing to be healthy.

He also found evidence that these babies can be victims of massive allergic reactions. Allergies are intimately tied in with the body's immunological chemistry. And there also is the subtle and hidden chemical weaknesses derived from merged parents.

In describing his study and program in the journal of the American Osteopathic Association, he also advocated gamma globulin for all babies born into families with a history of allergies or into families in which there have been "sudden death, suffocation, or unexplained infant death." Also to all "sickly" babies and "to any child, regard-

Destroyers To Aid Of Marine Airmen

Yokosuka, Japan — (U.P.) — Three U. S. destroyers rushed to night to rescue two Marine airmen who survived three days in an open raft after their jet crashed at sea.

A U. S. Navy spokesman in Yokosuka said that U. S. Air Force planes picked up a faint radio signal from the two men saying that they had seen flares fall and heard the roar of the engines.

He said the two men, who crashed in an F30 Skyknight Saturday, were definitely alive.

However, he said their message received at about 6:30 p.m. (3:30 a.m. PST) gave no details of their condition.

The destroyers were pitching through dark seas some 40 miles off Oshima at the tip of Tokyo harbor to reach the men.

The Navy spokesman said that the names of the two Marines would be withheld until their condition was determined. He said that if they were well, the names would be released.

less of age, who does not respond to antibiotics or chemical therapy while under treatment for an infectious disease process."



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The Highway Patrol said the vehicle was driven by John V. Weisbach, 34, of Dover, N.J. He was not cited.

The youth had been vacationing with his parents at nearby Pollock Pines.

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