

Coronary Heart Disease Studied By Enzyme Use

Washington—(Science Service)—Physicians can now determine quickly whether the ache in a patient's chest means coronary thrombosis or some other illness with like symptoms. Enzymes, substances that speed up chemical reactions, can be used for quick diagnosis of some types of heart disease and also hepatitis, a liver ailment.

More than 90 per cent of coronary thrombosis cases studied were diagnosed correctly, physicians attending a symposium on Current Topics in Cardiovascular Medicine here were told.

The spectrophotometer is used to analyze blood samples of patients in a matter of minutes. Although not supplanting the electrocardiogram, the enzyme measurement method is considered more accurate.

Component Parts
Dr. Felix Wroblewski, Cornell Medical School and Sloan-Kettering Memorial Hospital, New York, told of breaking down enzymes into their component parts, an advance that points to future use in determining a variety of diseases even before symptoms are noticeable. His work was done in collaboration with Dr. Kenneth Gregory, professor of microbiology, Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, Canada.

Dr. Warren Wacker of Harvard Medical School and Peter Bent Brigham hospital, Boston, reported that he had had 100 per cent success in diagnosing coronary heart disease in 99 patients, using an enzyme called lactate dehydrogenase. Elevation of the number of enzymes in the blood proved the diagnosis.

Dr. Howard Ticktin, George Washington University Medical School, used another enzyme called transaminase in the study of 201 patients, with 88 per cent accuracy.

"We can rule out the presence of serious heart attack," he said in an interview, "when the enzymes do not rise in the blood of patients. For example, a blood clot in the lung, which requires different treatment, is sometimes discovered."

The one-day symposium held at the Mayflower hotel was sponsored by the District of Columbia General Hospital in cooperation with the D. C. Academy of General Practice, D. C. Branch of the American Women's Medical Association and the Maryland Academy of General Practice.

Plastic Drain Is Used For Water on Brain

London—(Science Service)—The old surgical trick of hooking up a drainage pipe between spine and abdomen is making a comeback as a treatment for hydrocephalus, or water on the brain.

The technique of draining excess cerebrospinal fluid into a body cavity or vessel from which it can be absorbed was first practiced about the turn of the century. Doctors used all manner of materials for the drainage tubes, but none could be tolerated by body tissues. In 1927 the technique was abandoned, and not until 20 years later, when plastic tubing made its appearance was there any serious attempt to revive the technique.

The surgical procedure consists of tapping the fluid-filled hollow spaces of the spine, continuous with those in the brain, and channeling the fluid to the ureter, lung cavity, abdominal cavity, jugular vein or any other likely site.

Dr. A. R. Taylor of Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, Ireland, and Dr. J. R. Milliken and P. P. Davison of the Belfast Child Guidance Clinic reported here that of eight infants operated on in this manner in 1952, five survived. Although there were some difficulties in the first years, the physical, emotional and intellectual status of the survivors are now within the normal range. Four of the children have I.Q.'s of 100 or above. The fifth child moved to Canada, so her I. Q. is not known.

Reporting in the British Medical Journal (Nov. 5) the researchers cite one set of statistics for untreated hydrocephalus indicating that 54 per cent die at an early age, 30 per cent have I.Q.'s of more than 50 and are presumed educable, and only 6.5 per cent have I.Q.'s over 100.

Although it is difficult to tell whether and when to operate, the researchers believe an infant's chances for normal survival are good if he makes it through the postoperative period and if the drainage tube can be kept unclogged for two or three years.



WESTERN APPLES IN NEW PACKAGE

Western apples will wear a new look when appearing on produce racks this season. Six apples placed in a tray will be wrapped with a film which after processing conforms to the shape of the apples. This snug covering holds each apple in place and protects them from bruising. Each apple is clearly visible through this wonderfully transparent film. They will be extra fresh too because the package is open at both ends for ventilation.

Whether sold in bags, boxes or trays, apples are still America's most popular candidate for health. Young or old, everyone votes for apples. Admirers like applesauce for breakfast—a fresh apple at lunch—baked apples for evening dessert, and don't forget TV snacks. Try this old-fashioned favorite recipe—Apple Dumplings—tonight.

Apple Dumplings

- 2 cups sugar
- 2 cups water
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 1/2 cups sifted flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons baking powder
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1/2 cup shortening
- 1/2 cup milk (approximately)
- 6 medium apples

Make syrup of sugar, water, cinnamon and nutmeg; add butter. Mix flour, salt, baking powder and sugar. Cut in shortening. Add milk to make a soft biscuit dough. Roll to 1/4 inch thickness. Cut dough in 6 squares. Arrange quartered and pared apples in center of each. Sprinkle with mixture of sugar and cinnamon and dot with butter. Draw dough up and around apples. Pierce with fork and place in greased baking dish, pour over syrup and bake in a moderately hot oven (375° F.), about 40 minutes. Serve hot with cream. Yield: 6 servings.

The Family Council

Editors Note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, three editors and a woman's editor. Each article is a summary of an actual case history. The Council reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and counselors.

Roland S. - My father keeps pushing me and I'm tired of it.

Mr. C. S. - The boy is a real genius, only he won't work.

Roland S. - Can you get my father off my neck? Ever since I can remember he's been teaching me tricks with numbers, quick ways to handle fractions and cube roots and all the other stunts. So what? It was fun showing off when I was 4 and 5. But now I'm 16 and I want to give my mind a rest.

Except for math, I'm a jerk. I want to catch up to my friends in other things—like ballroom dancing, girls, sports, movies, and all the other things my father calls a waste of time.

Just because I have a good memory and I learn numbers fast, he thinks I'm another Einstein. But I've met fellows who are much brighter than I am. I'm really a pretty ordinary guy. But try and tell that to my father.

Every time I relax to have a good time with my friends, he makes me feel I'm cheating him and the whole world out of some great discovery. How can I convince him I'm just not that good?

Mr. C. S. - Rolly has a brain that's a gift from Heaven and he could revolutionize the whole field of mathematics if he really used it. But no. He denies that he's anything special and he just wants to kid around from now on. Would you believe it, he told me he might be a disc jockey!

That boy can do anything with numbers, and all in his head. As a child, he gave demonstrations before college professors of his calculations. Even now, just ask him to multiply anything and he'll give you the answer almost before the last figure is out of your mouth.

I've always been good at the same thing myself. But I never had the chance to go ahead, like Rolly has. I stuck in the grocery business just adding up the butter, rolls and beans my customers bought. But my son has already won a few school prizes and honors and, if he applied himself, could roll up some full-tuition scholarships for the best colleges. They'd all want a winner.

Instead, though, he just wants to take it easy. If anyone is college material it's Rolly. But he says he's not interested in college at all!

The Council: Here is the familiar example of the father who, having himself missed out on the sort of distinction he craved, is grabbing for it in his son's name. We meet him in many of the annals of misery.

Once in a while goading is justifiable. When a teacher is certain that a pupil is working far below his capacity, some prodding may quickly

and easily show the pupil himself that this is so. But too much pressure from without, too much pushing toward over-ambitious goals, usually has the same effect as a ton of air on a rubber balloon. It collapses it or at least grounds it.

Mr. S. must proceed on the old theory that "genius will out." After a breather in which to find himself, after even a stab at disc-jockeying (which takes brains too), Roland can take stock and see what's crying out within him for expression. Perhaps it is higher mathematics. Perhaps he is a genius. Roland needs time, and other interests, to find out. And other people, objective and impartial experts, will confirm his "uniqueness" or talent level. Not Dad.

Meanwhile, Mr. S. would be wise to "lay off." There's a pulsating young man attached to that brain of Roland's not a robot. Roland is not retreating, he's catching up. His father has led him out to lonely waters, and he wants to swim with his peers. He's not ready to pay the price of genius, which includes asceticism and sacrifice.

It matters not whether Roland sets the world on fire or just lights a modest candle, like his father. What matters is that he lives Roland's life, not Dad's, to the full. (Copyright 1960, General Features Corp.)

PARTY LEADER DIES
London—(AP)—Group Capt. Llewellyn R. Briggs, 63, leader of the United party which claimed to represent white settlers in Kenya, British East Africa, died Tuesday.

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