

New Vaccine To Be Tested In Fight Against Polio

Editor's Note — Starting about April 12 health officials across the nation begin a historic trial: field tests of the polio vaccine developed by Dr. Jonas E. Salk of Pittsburgh. If the vaccine is effective, the crippling career of paralytic poliomyelitis may be ended. This is the first of three articles on what parents everywhere hope may prove man's mastery over frightening disease.

Dr. Salk has been testing his vaccine on children for a year and a half.

Of nearly 5,000 children vaccinated so far, not one has become ill with any fever from the vaccine, or even had soreness in the arm receiving the shots.

Blood tests show the vaccinations can create antibodies against all three types of virus, even in children who had no polio antibodies at all before getting the vaccine.

They kept these antibodies, in what seem to be protective amounts, for at least seven months. That's the length of one polio season.

But Dr. Salk has just made a heartening new find. It seems that the first one or two shots of vaccine alter the body's antibody mechanism, make it more sensitive. When the third or booster shot of vaccine is given sometime later, antibody production soars sky-high. Some children even got more antibodies than they show after natural infection with polio.

And Dr. Salk has a little evidence that natural exposure to polio after one or two shots of vaccine may act like a booster shot of vaccine. The sensitized antibody mechanism may be triggered into quick, high production of antibodies against the virus which is making an invasion.

These are reasons for thinking that a few shots of vaccine can give life-long protection. Whenever a virus came along, the antibody policemen would appear in heavy force.

Children in the test are getting two shots of vaccine spaced a week apart, with the booster shot four weeks later. Actually there may be a better timing or spacing for the booster shot to create the most protection, and this question is being studied. It's also possible that only one initial or sensitizing shot is needed, followed by one booster later.

Well, you may ask, if the vaccine creates antibodies, why is there any doubt that it won't protect the children?

There are two questions. One is whether there are enough antibodies from the vaccine. The other is whether the virus can attack nerves without going through the bloodstream where the antibodies are standing guard.

The evidence is that most of us get polio because the virus enters the intestinal tract, then gets into the bloodstream, and then moves on to attack the nerves.

But there is evidence that sometimes it can bypass the bloodstream, thus escaping attack by the antibodies.

The tests on thousands of children will help show how often the virus may attack in this manner rather than through the bloodstream.

But there is a hopeful fact here too. It is that spaced shots of vaccine can create so many antibodies that some "spill over" from the bloodstream into peripheral nerves. They would thus be standing guard along nerve pathways against virus which did bypass the bloodstream.

(Tomorrow: How the vaccine is made, how the tests are being run.)

Hostile Aircraft Alerts Seoul
SEoul (U)—Seoul was under a red alert—hostile aircraft in area—today for 10 minutes. A brief Air Force announcement said a single unidentified aircraft had been sighted on radar screens near the demilitarized zone.

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LES CUSHMAN, TULELAKE RANCHER — will star in a rib-tickling three-act comedy, "The Great Ben Allah," at the Tulelake High School auditorium, Saturday, April 3. Curtain time will be 8 p.m. Les was chosen "not only for his suave good looks," but for the neat twist he twists in the Hindu rope trick, the way he looks a snake in the eye, and the ease with which he rests on a spiked pallet. Barbara Krizo will play the feminine lead. Supporting members are "Shorty" Bradbury, Ed Seus, Esther Seus, Harry Hundley, Joyce Cushman, Kay Santana, Luther Morris and Dorothy Perry, a "grownup" cast. Ken Benschel is directing. The play is being sponsored by the Newell Union Parent-Teacher Association.

STICKY ACCIDENT
GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (U)—A highway tanker from Chicago loaded with syrup collided with another truck yesterday near here. Traffic was gummed up for an hour before Wyoming Township firemen washed off the highway.

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Farm Product Prices Decline

WASHINGTON (U)—The Agriculture Department reported Tuesday that farm product prices declined eight-tenths of 1 per cent between mid-February and mid-March.

This was the second consecutive month of decline, the prices having dropped nearly one-half of 1 per cent in February.

Lower prices for eggs, milk, hogs, potatoes and butterfat were primarily responsible for the decline. These decreases were only partially offset by higher prices for beef cattle, commercial vegetables, cotton, lamb, wheat and soy beans.

The mid-March farm price level was 2.96 per cent below the level of a year ago, and about 16 per cent below the record high set in February 1951.

and services used in family living and in production increased about one-third of 1 per cent between mid-February and mid-March. Higher food prices were primarily responsible.

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