

MEDICAL GRAND ROUNDS

Parkland Memorial Hospital

April 4, 1963

PRIMAQUINE SENSITIVE ANEMIA

Case History [REDACTED]

The patient is a 24 year old [REDACTED] woman who has been followed at [REDACTED] since 1954. In November, 1955 she was admitted for delivery of a term pregnancy. Mild pre-eclampsia was diagnosed on the basis of albuminuria, and a blood pressure of 142/40; however, she had an uneventful delivery, receiving no medication other than Fergon and Pitocin, morphine and phenobarbital. Her hemoglobin on discharge was 10.8 gm/100 ml.

She was next seen on [REDACTED]-57 in the 7th month of pregnancy complaining of pain on the right side of three days duration and fever beginning on the day prior to admission. Urinalysis revealed 5 to 10 pus cells. The hemoglobin was reported at 8.4. She was treated with Achromycin I.V. for 24 hours and discharged. The patient was admitted on [REDACTED]-57 for the delivery of her second child. Her hemoglobin on admission was 12.0. The delivery was uneventful, and the patient was discharged on [REDACTED]-57 having received medications consisting only of Fergon and codeine.

She was next seen 15 days later with a two day history of fever, chills, right flank pain followed by nausea, vomiting and cloudy urine. Hemoglobin on admission was 8.5, hematocrit 28%. The urine was loaded with white cells. Urine culture grew out E. Coli and she was treated with intravenous Achromycin, 1 gram, and Penicillin, 0.5 m.u. followed by achromycin 250 mg. q-6-h P.O. Five days later the urinalysis showed 10 to 15 cells, however, the patient complained of nausea and vomiting following the oral Achromycin and she was consequently shifted to intravenous Achromycin, and Furadantin was added in an oral dose of 50 mg. q.i.d.

The first dose of Furadantin was given at 2:00 PM on [REDACTED]-57 and every four hours during the day thereafter for two days. On the morning of [REDACTED]-57 while being ambulated in preparation for discharge, the patient suddenly fainted. A hemoglobin obtained at that time showed a drop to 4.8 mg.%. The hematocrit was 15. The plasma was reported to be "jaundiced". By the following day, the patient's hemoglobin had further decreased to 2.6 gm%, the hematocrit to 10.3%. Reticulocyte count was 7.4% with 10 nucleated red cells, WBC 31,200. Urobilinogen was noted in the urine, and the serum bilirubin had risen 5.4 mg.%. Furadantin was discontinued after the 10:00 PM dose on [REDACTED]-57, and thereafter the patient received no drugs whatsoever. Reticulocyte count obtained on [REDACTED]-57 was 6.7%. The patient was treated with 2 units of whole blood and on the following day, her hemoglobin was reported as 8.6 and hematocrit 23. Another unit of blood was given on [REDACTED]-57 and by the time of discharge on [REDACTED]-57 her hemoglobin had risen to 12.0, and the hematocrit 35%. A bone marrow obtained on [REDACTED]-57 showed hypercellular marrow with erythrocyte:granulocyte ratio of 1:1. The erythrocyte hyperplasia is of the normoblastic type. No marrow iron. Impression: erythrocytic hyperplasia. The sickle cell prep was negative. Serology was negative. Coombs test was likewise negative. The patient was discharged with the diagnosis of iron deficiency anemia and acute hemolytic anemia secondary to Furadantin.

The patient was next seen 3-1/2 months later ([REDACTED]-57) when she was again admitted to [REDACTED] with a two day history of chills, fever, pain in the left side but no dysuria. Hemoglobin on admission was 8.8 gm.%, hematocrit 32%. The urine contained approximately 100 WBC, and E. Coli was again cultured from a catheterized specimen. The pyelonephritis was initially treated with Achromycin and Penicillin and streptomycin. However, on 11-28-57 in addition to this therapy she was again begun on Furadantin, 50 mg. q.i.d. Over the following 6 days the patient's hemoglobin dropped to 7.3 and her hematocrit decreased to 24.

Her reticulocyte increased from a premedication level of 2.5% to 4.5% and reached a maximum on [REDACTED]-57 of 10.2%. Furadantin was discontinued on [REDACTED]-57 and at the time of discharge on [REDACTED]-57 this patient's hemoglobin was 7.6 gr.%.

The patient was next seen in this hospital on [REDACTED]-58 at which time she was five months pregnant. The hemoglobin at that time was 7.8, hematocrit 28.5.

In the latter part of this pregnancy, she was placed on Kynex, 1 gm per day. On [REDACTED]-58 she was admitted for delivery of her term pregnancy. The blood pressure at that time was 148/110, 3+ albuminuria was noted and there were 1 to 3 white cells in her urine. The hematocrit was 33%. Because of the pre-eclampsia and the history of chronic pyelonephritis a tubal ligation was performed after delivery of a viable infant. The patient's serology was found to be positive, and she was treated after discharge with 10,000,000 units of Penicillin.

She has subsequently been seen occasionally in the Emergency Room and Out-patient clinic for minor injuries and acute PID, but has otherwise been well.

In view of her history, the patient was recalled on [REDACTED]-63 and a drug history at that time revealed that she frequently took Anacin in a dosage of 3 tablets per day but was on no other medication. Her hemoglobin at this time was 11.1 gm.%, hematocrit 36, WBC 4,9000.

A glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase assay was carried out on her red cells, and the level of this enzyme was clearly depressed (TPNH-production in density units per minute per mg of hemoglobin was 0.23, normal control 1.90). The Methemoglobin Reduction Test of Brewer was likewise positive.

She was advised to take no medication without consulting a physician who is aware of her disease.

Date

Treatment

55
57
57

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9 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 1 2 3 4 5 6

58
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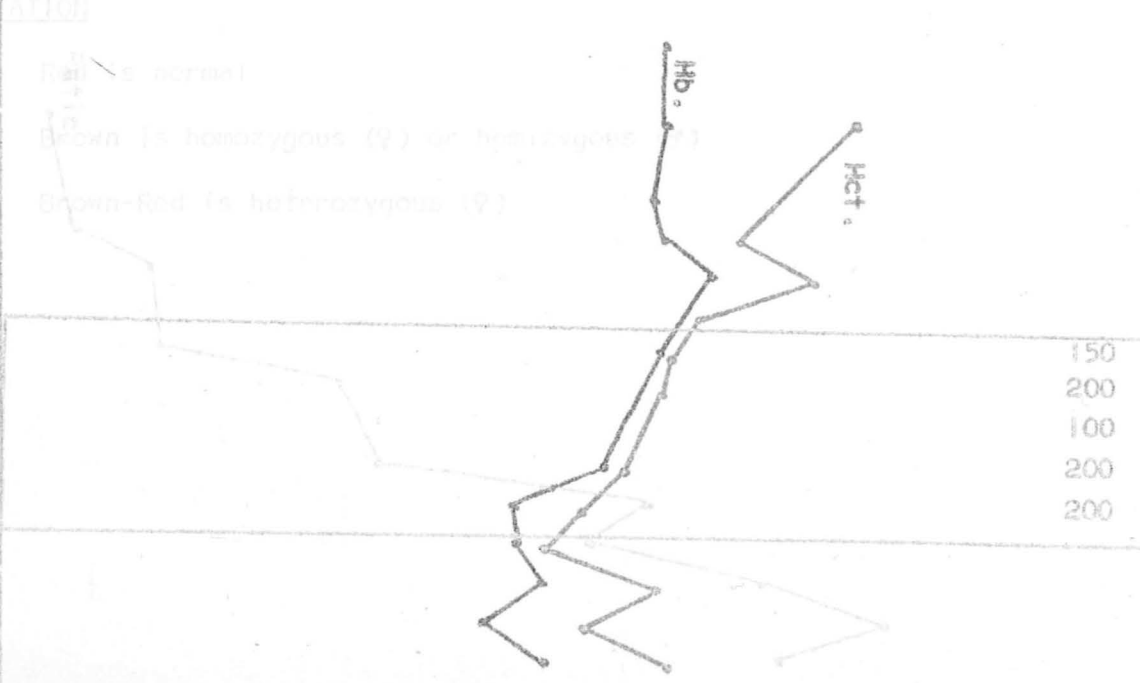
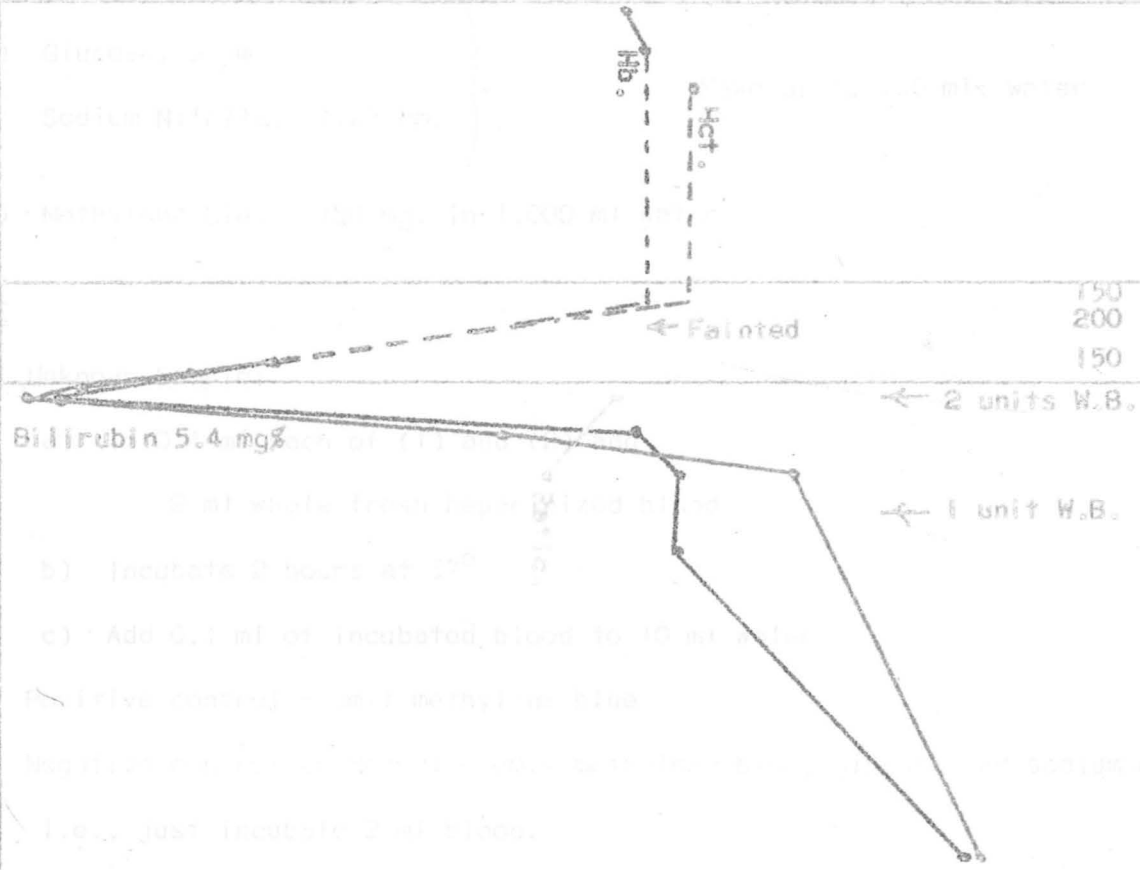
Acromycin, Penicillin, Streptomycin

Furadantin

Acromycin, Penicillin, Streptomycin

Furadantin

Hb.	Hct.	W.B.C.
12	35	11
10	30	9
8	25	7
6	20	5
4	15	3
2	10	1



Response of G-6-P-D-Deficient Patient to Furadantin

METHEMOGLOBIN REDUCTION TEST

REAGENTS

- (1) Glucose, 5 gm
Sodium Nitrite, 1.25 gm. } Make up to 100 ml. water
- (2) Methylene Blue 150 mg. in 1,000 ml water

PROCEDURE

- A. Unknown Sample:
- a) To 0.1 ml each of (1) and (2) add
2 ml whole fresh heparinized blood
 - b) Incubate 2 hours at 37°
 - c) Add 0.1 ml of incubated blood to 10 ml water
- B. Positive control - omit methylene blue
- C. Negative control or Normal - omit methylene blue, glucose and sodium nitrite;
i.e., just incubate 2 ml blood.

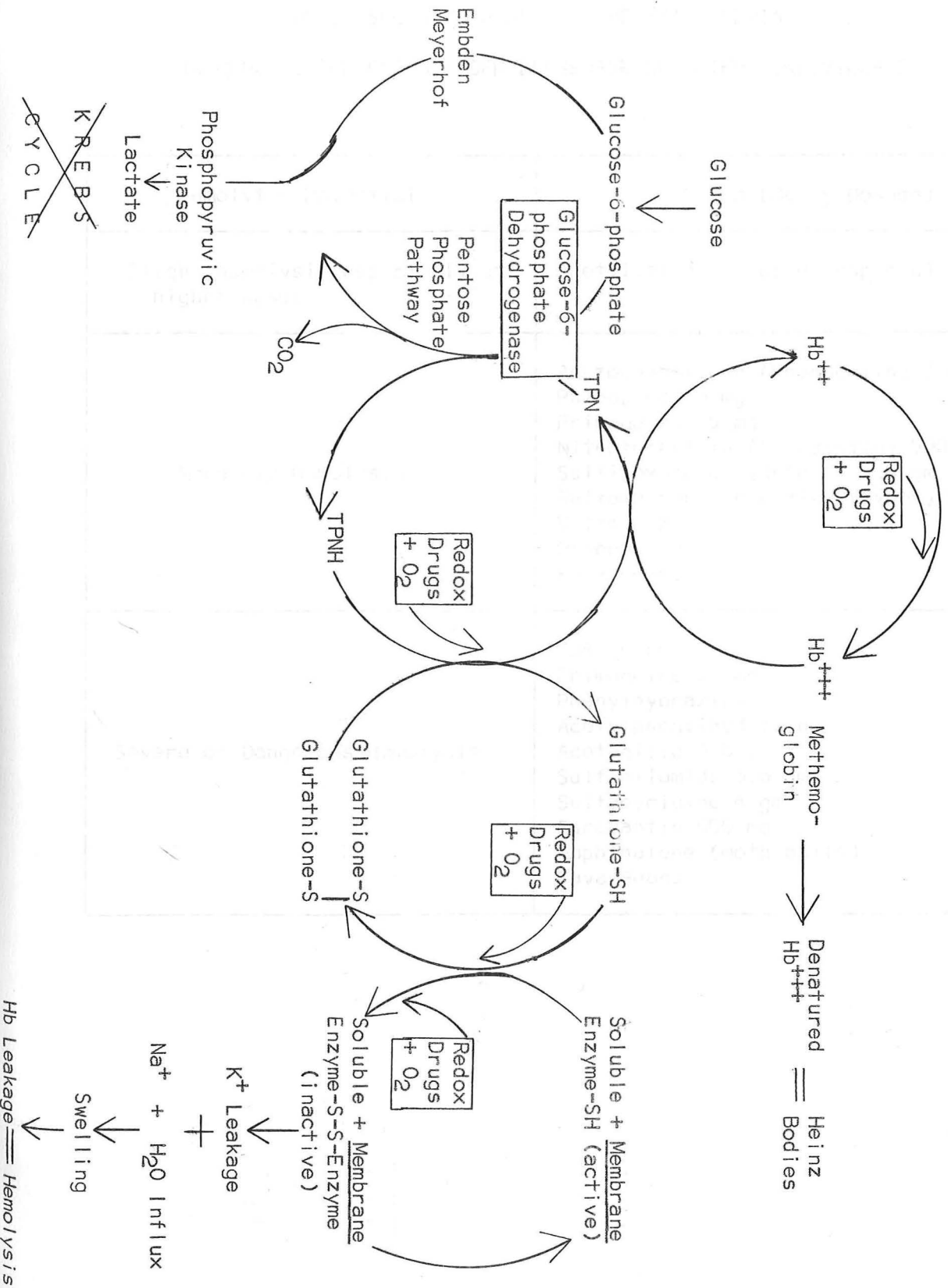
INTERPRETATION

Red is normal

Brown is homozygous (♀) or hemizygous (♂)

Brown-Red is heterozygous (♀)

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DRUGS SHOWN TO PRODUCE HEMOLYTIC ANEMIA
IN GLUCOSE-6-PHOSPHATE DEHYDROGENASE DEFICIENT INDIVIDUALS

Hemolytic Potential	Drugs (Daily Dosage)
Slight hemolysis especially at higher doses	Acetylsalicylic acid (aspirin)
Moderate Hemolysis	Acetophenetiden (Phenacetin) 3.6 gm Pamaquine 10 mg Primaquine 15 mg Nitrofurantoin (Furadantin) 500 mg Sulfisoxazole (Gantrisin) 8 gm Sulfamethoxypyridazine (Kynex) 2 gm Vitamin K Probenecid Fava Beans
Severe or Dangerous Hemolysis	Pamaquine 20 mg Primaquine 30 mg Phenylhydrazine Acetylphenylhydrazine Acetanilid 3.6 gm Sulfanilamide 3.6 gm. Sulfapyridine 4 gm Furadantin 600 mg Naphthalene (moth balls) Fava Beans

MANIFESTATIONS OF GLUCOSE-6-PHOSPHATE DEHYDROGENASE DEFICIENCIES

Syndrome	Race	RBC Hemolysis		G6P-D	
		Life Span Without Drugs	Sensitivity to Drugs	Activity	Enzyme Structure
Primaquine Sensitive Anemia	Negro	Slightly shortened (25%) (Compensated hemolysis)	Moderate (heterozygous) to severe (hemi- or homozygous). Not caused by chloramphenicol, PAS, or quinidine.	Mod. Depressed	Normal
	Caucasian	Slightly shortened.	Severe response to drugs including chloramphenicol, PAS and quinidine.	Very Depressed	Probably Normal.
Congenital Non-spherocytic Hemolytic Anemia (G6P-D-Deficient type)	Caucasian	Continuous hemolysis.	Severe response to small doses of drugs.	Almost Undetectable.	Abnormal

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Studies Elucidating the Defect in Primaquine Sensitive Anemia

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Electron Microscopic Change in Glucose-6-phosphate Dehydrogenase Deficiency

20. Danon, D., Sheba, C.L. and Ramot, B. The Morphology of Glucose-6-phosphate Dehydrogenase Deficient Erythrocytes: Electron Microscopic Studies. Blood 17:229, 1961.
Young red blood cells have "granulated" membranes in stroma. Old red blood cells have "smooth" membranes. In normal patients 3-30% of red blood cells are smooth. In glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase deficient patients 60-95% are smooth. Suggest disease is "progeria" of the RBCs.

Effect of Age on Red Blood Cell Glucose-6-phosphate Dehydrogenase

21. Marks, P.A., Johnson, A.B., Hirshberg, E.: Effect of Age on the Enzyme Activity in Erythrocytes. Proc. Nat. Acad. Sc. 44:529, 1958.
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Other Enzymes Altered in Primaquine-Sensitive Red Blood Cells

(1) Catalase decreased

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(4) Phosphomonoesterase decreased in Caucasians only

25. Oski, A., Shahidi, T. and Diamond, K.: Erythrocyte Acid Phosphomonoesterase and Glucose-6-Phosphate Dehydrogenase Deficiency in Caucasians. Science 139:409, 1963.
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Glucose-6-Phosphate Dehydrogenase Deficiency in Tissues Other than Red Blood Cells

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Mechanism of Hemolysis

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The Methemoglobin Test

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Treatment

Intermediate Use of Drug

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Nicotinic Acid

63. Tarlov - quoted in Carson Ref. 5.
Nicotinic acid given for 3-4 months gave 40% protection against primaquine-sensitive anemia.