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Aureomycin Therapy

Dr. C. H. Chivers*

An article appeared in the Summer 1950 edition of the Iowa State College Veterinarian on the use of the antibiotic, aureomycin,** in the Veterinary Clinic, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa. Since that time aureomycin has been in almost constant use here in a wider variety of cases than was covered in the first article and more knowledge concerning its action has come to light.

In this discussion the use of aureomycin is limited to the equine and bovine species and to such cases as are entered in the clinic where its use would be indicated. These indications are governed by the success or lack of success attending the use of older types of therapy on these cases. Only those cases or disease conditions that were difficult or impossible to treat successfully with other and older agents or methods were selected to be treated with aureomycin. Prominent among these are calf septicemias, *Corynebacterium pyogenes* infections in locations where surgical amputation is not feasible, alveolar periostitis in horses accompanied by sinusitis, sinusitis from dehorning operations in cattle, listerellosis, pneumonias and such respiratory diseases as are covered by the term “shipping fever” in cattle, mastitis, suppurative arthritis, navel ill, nephritis, rabies and calf diphtheria. Also this antibiotic seems to be of value in treating accidental traumatic wounds of animals which are badly contaminated and showing indolent healing, as well as preventing the development of infection in such wounds when freshly made.

Observation of the action of aureomycin would seem to show that it has two types of action, immediate in some peracute and acute infections such as calf septicemia and listerellosis and a delayed action in the chronic type of cases such as suppurative arthritis, nephritis and deep seated *Corynebacterium* infections. In the one case of rabies in a bovine that was treated with aureomycin there was no observable beneficial response at all. Results have ranged from excellent, sometimes dramatic to none at all. It should be kept in mind that many cases were of long standing with permanent pathological tissue changes that had failed to respond to other treatment and had been presented as a last resort.

The form of the antibiotic used in this study was aureomycin hydrochloride with sodium glycinate to be dissolved in sterile distilled water and administered intravenously. Subcutaneous or perivenous injection of this form of the drug will produce a marked swelling and induration that will persist for a week or more. It can, however, be injected intraperitoneally in cases where intravenous injection would not be practical. The perivenous injection in small amounts does not produce necrosis or sloughing. Some side effects of intravenous administration

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* Ed. note: Dr. Chivers is on the staff of Iowa State College Veterinary clinic. This article is a follow up on that on aureomycin therapy appearing in Volume XII, Number 3.

** Courtesy Lederle Laboratories.
have been noticed. Practically all horses develop a complete loss of appetite on the second or third day, of a course of treatment, and lasts for about four days after treatment is discontinued. This is seen in cattle in a much smaller degree, often hardly noticeable. Occasionally a weakened or debilitated animal will exhibit signs of shock after the first injection, often to an alarming degree, but no deaths have occurred from this which is apparently an allergic or anaphylactic reaction. There has been no evidence of toxic or injurious after effects in a year of observation.

Scientists’ Salaries

Salary levels of the nation’s top scientists are considerably lower in colleges and universities than in either government or private industry. Earnings are highest in private industry not only for the entire group of scientists but also for those in each age group, in every scientific field, and in every region of the country.

This is one of the major findings of a study of the employment, education, and earnings of the country’s leading scientists. The study, which covers 42,000 of the 52,000 scientists listed in the 1949 edition of the biographical directory American Men of Science, was made by the U.S. Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics in cooperation with the Department of Defense.

For Ph.D.’s in all specialties taken together, the median salary in private industry was $7,070 a year, in government $6,280 a year, and in education $4,860. The engineers had the highest median salary and the biologists the lowest in every type of employment. So important, however, was the difference in salary levels as between one type of employer and another that the biologists working for business firms tended to earn more than the engineers on the college campus.

The total cost for brucellosis eradication in Iowa from public funds during the year 1949 was $74,709.77.

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