Correspondence

Immunological studies in inflammatory bowel disease

Sir.—The leading article by Ferguson (Gut 1983, 24: 687–91) on immunological studies in inflammatory bowel disease, and the paper by Fiocchi et al (pp. 692–701) prompted us to refer our data on T function in Crohn’s disease.

While studying T rosette serum inhibitory factors in chronic active liver disease, we also tested, as a disease control group, 14 sera from coeliac disease untreated patients. Rosette inhibitory factors were detected in 36% coeliac disease sera and they were associated with immunoglobulin factors reacting in immunofluorescence with purified T lymphocyte. Furthermore, inhibitory activity was abolished by treatment of sera with (NH4)2SO4, which precipitates gammaglobulin fraction. We conclude that in some coeliac disease cases serum immunoglobulin factors, which can interfere with T lymphocyte functions, are present.

We agree that direct studies on intestinal lymphoid system are likely to be the best way to detect immunological abnormalities underlying these diseases, but we would like to point out that also at this level results are rather conflicting. In fact, other authors have reported reduced suppressor cell activity in intestinal lymphocytes from patients with coeliac disease. Furthermore, our data would suggest that systemic factors also may be relevant in modulating immune reactions in these conditions.

DANIELA ZAULI, M FUSCONI, CRISTINA CRESPI, G COMETTI, F B BIANCHI, AND E PISI
Istituto di Patologia Speciale Medica I,
University of Bologna,
Via Massarenti 9,
40138 Bologna, Italy.

References


Total parenteral nutrition in the hospital and at home Edited by K N Jeejeebhoy. (Pp. 255; illustrated; $85.00.) Florida: CRC Press, Inc, 1983. Professor Jeejeebhoy’s unit in Toronto is well-known for its work in the field of nutrition both for its experimental work and for the practical management of patients in hospital and at home. His new book concentrates on the latter aspect of his work and has additional chapters by members of the departments of surgery, pharmacy, and nursing. Unlike the majority of recent books on the subject, which often concentrate on theoretical aspects, this book is a highly specific down-to-earth practical manual. It contains chapters describing the
organisation of a support team, the practical aspects of the use of catheters including nursing techniques, and the prevention and treatment of complications. Other chapters supply details of the requirements for a comprehensive feeding programme. These include the ordering and preparation of parenteral solutions, the suitability and compatibility of TPN mixtures and a cost analysis of home feeding. Considerable attention is directed at the pharmaceutical components of a feeding programme in the chapters by G Tsallias. These give a much more balanced view of the subject than is usually found. He ends with an excellent short chapter which defines most of the terms in common use with great precision. The few black and white illustrations (such as those showing the operative manoeuvres for inserting a tunnel catheter in the deltopectoral region), are poorly printed, but they illustrate the technique clearly.

The book is carefully written with quite extensive reading lists at the end of the important chapters. It is recommended reading for all clinicians interested in the subject and especially for those in training who are part of a feeding team; it is a particularly useful guide for a hospital trying to set up a feeding programme.

EMANUEL C G LEE

Books received

Recent results in cancer research. Colorectal cancer Edited by W Duncan. (Pp. 156; illustrated; $40.90.) Heidelberg: Springer-Verlag, 1982.

Progress in allergy. Host parasite relationships in gram-negative infections Edited by L A Hanson, P Kallos, O Westphal. (Pp. 344; illustrated; $118.75.) Basel, Switzerland: S Karger, 1982.


Books. News

9th International Hepatic Update 1984
To be held at The Royal Free Hospital, London, from 12–14 July 1984. Speakers include: Dame Sheila Sherlock (London), W Arnold (Bremen), L Blumgart (London), J Dienstag (Boston), G Johnston (Belfast), A Jones (Bethesda), R MacSween (Glasgow), K Okuda (Tokyo), J Rodes (Barcelona), N Tygstrup (Copenhagen), A Zuckerman (London), and staff of The Royal Free Hospital and School of Medicine. Further details are available from: Professor Neil McIntyre, The Royal Free Hospital, Pond Street, London NW3 2QG.

Société Nationale Française de Gastroenterologie
The 19th research forum and the 8th French meeting of hepatogastroenterology organised by this society will be held from 13–16 March 1984 at the Sofitel-Sévres Hotel in Paris. Further information from Professor Y Le Quintrec, Hopital Rothschild, 33 Boulevard de Picpus, 75571, Paris, Cedex 12, France.

5th International Symposium on Gastrointestinal Hormones
This meeting, which is to provide a forum for the communication of recent research in gastrointestinal hormones, is to be held from 30 September to 3 October, 1984 in Rochester, Minnesota, USA. Abstracts must be received by 27 April 1984. Further details from Dr Vay Liang W Go, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota 55905, USA.

19th Czechoslovak Congress of Gastroenterology
This congress will be held from 12–16 November 1984 at Karlovy Vary, Czechoslovakia. Further details from Czechoslovak Medical Society, J E Purkyňe, Czechoslovak Congress of Gastroenterology, Vítězného února 31, 120 26 Praha 2, Czechoslovakia.

6th International Conference on Alcohol Related Problems
This conference is to be held from 8–13 April 1984 in Liverpool. Further information from Dr A I Morris, Chairman, Conference Organising Committee, 1st Floor, Fruit Exchange, Victoria Street, Liverpool L2 6QU.

International Symposium on Alimentation and Diseases of the Upper Digestive Tract
This meeting will be held on 31 March 1984 in Genoa, Italy. Further details from Dr E Bovero, Divisione di Gastroenterologia, Ospedale S Martino, 16132 Genoa, Italy.

News

2nd European Symposium on Gastrointestinal Motility
This symposium will be held in Oxford from 5–7 September 1984. Abstracts must be received by 1 April 1984. Further information may be obtained from Dr D L Wingate, London Hospital, Whitechapel Road, London E1 1BB.
Total parenteral nutrition in the hospital and at home

Emanoel C G Lee

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