A CASE OF *BACILLUS COLI* INFECTION OF THE KIDNEY COMPLICATING PREGNANCY TREATED BY ANTI-COLI SERUM.

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Mrs. P., wife of a Corporal in the R.M.I.L., six months pregnant, was admitted to the Military Families Hospital, Devonport, on January 1, 1912, as a possible case of appendicitis. On admission, the patient complained of severe pain in the right loin, vomiting, shivering, and profuse sweating of nine days’ duration. The onset was mild, but after two days the pain became very severe, and she was often “doubled up in agony.”

There was a history of increased frequency of micturition for the past fortnight, as well as during the early months of pregnancy, but the patient did not notice any change in the colour or amount of her urine.

January 1, 1912.—On examination the patient looked very ill and emaciated. Temperature 102.6° F., pulse 112, respiration 20.

The bowels had not acted for two days, and the tongue was dry and coated. With the exception that the heart’s action was rapid nothing abnormal was discovered from examination of the chest. The fundus was at the upper border of the umbilicus, and the uterus had the usual right lateral obliquity. The abdomen moved freely with respiration, there was no rigidity whatsoever, and the only place where the patient complained of pain on pressure, was behind in the right lumbar region. No mass or tumour could be felt by abdominal or vaginal examination. The fetal heart could be well heard. The urine was scanty in amount, very acid, sp. g. 1026, and contained a moderate amount of albumin, but no blood or pus.

**Treatment.**—The patient was ordered a milk diet, hot fomentations to the affected loin, and an enema.

January 2, 1912.—The patient had a fairly good night, slept five hours. The enema yesterday was returned unchanged, so castor-oil was given last night, and the bowels have acted twice. Temperature at 6 p.m. yesterday was 103.8° F., and at 2 a.m. this morning it was 105° F. Pulse regular, 132, respirations 24.

She stated the pain in her side was not so acute to-day. A mixture containing urotropin, potassium acetate, and potassium citrate was ordered every four hours.

The patient was seen in consultation to-day. We came to the conclusion that the case might be one of *B. coli* infection of the kidney, and that treatment with anti-coli serum should be started.

A catheter specimen of urine was sent to-day to the laboratory for bacteriological examination.

January 4, 1912.—The patient had a rigor at 1 a.m., lasting five minutes. The temperature rose to 104.4° F., and she vomited several times.
Clinical and other Notes

The temperature this morning was 103° F., the pulse 130.

The bowels were very constipated, and she was only passing about 20 ozs. of urine in twenty-four hours, it was acid and contained albumin. The fetus was alive, fetal movements could be seen and felt.

A slight colourless discharge without any odour appeared from the vagina. Vaginal examination showed nothing abnormal.

The report of the bacteriological examination of the urine was received to-day from Major Packer, stating that it contained a pure culture of B. coli; therefore 25 c.c. anti-coli serum was injected subcutaneously.

The patient was also ordered calcium lactate gr.x, t.i.d., to prevent joint pains, rashes, &c., and she was put on sanatogen.

January 5, 1912.—The temperature rose to 104° F. an hour after the injection yesterday, this morning it was 102° F., pulse 116.

The patient now stated she felt better; the vomiting had ceased and the pain was much less; 25 c.c. anti-coli serum were again injected.

January 6, 1912.—Temperature this morning was 97° F.; last night it was 102° F., pulse 108, weak. Patient vomited several times again last night. She was ordered tinct. opii. m1x this morning, champagne 1 oz. every two hours, and nutrient enemata.

January 7, 1912.—The vomiting has ceased since the opium yesterday; pulse has improved, being this morning 102, regular and strong, and she slept nearly all night. She is now free from pain; 41 oz. urine were passed in the last twenty-four hours; it was still acid and contained a trace of albumin. The alkaline mixture was discontinued as well as the nutrient enemata. The vaginal discharge has ceased.

The temperature this morning was 101° F.; 25 c.c. anti-coli serum were injected subcutaneously.

From this date to the evening of the 14th, the patient’s temperature and pulse remained normal and a steady improvement was made.

On the evening of the 14th, the temperature rose to 103° F., pulse 110, and so 25 c.c. anti-coli serum were injected.

This amount of serum was again injected subcutaneously on the 22nd and 27th, as the temperature began to rise.

Her temperature and pulse were again normal on February 1, and remained so, except for occasional slight rises.

She was allowed up on February 20. On March 31 a fine healthy boy, weighing 7½ lb., was born in the hospital.

Remarks.—It is somewhat extraordinary that a miscarriage did not occur, inasmuch as her temperature was once 105° F., and frequently over 104° F.

The pain and tenderness were entirely limited to the area of the right kidney; it is therefore probable that the left kidney was not affected, and this can possibly be explained by the inclination of the uterus to the right, the pressure on the right ureter interfering with its functions, and so assisting infection by B. coli.