

LSD-25 Helps Schizophrenic Children

Drug improves behavior patterns in preliminary tests; UML-491 also found effective

A powerful serotonin-inhibiting drug, known by the code name LSD-25, has shown beneficial results in a group of schizophrenic children in preliminary tests.

Drs. Laretta Bender, Lothar Goldschmidt, and D. V. Siva Sankar, of Creedmoor State Hospital, Queens, N.Y., report in *Recent Advances in Biological Psychiatry* that they used the drug on 14 withdrawn schizophrenic children under the age of 11. The 2 oldest boys, over 10 years old and at or near puberty, reacted with disturbed anxious behavior and were dropped from the study.

The 12 other children showed improved behavioral patterns when the drug was administered intramuscularly and orally, the doctors report. The disturbed youngsters appeared to be in an elevated or "high" mood following administration of LSD-25. They were gay and playful and accepted contact with an adult in their tentative, teasing, playful activities, which included ball playing, paper tearing, motor play, rhythmic hand clapping, and body swaying. The physicians further note that the children appeared flushed and bright eyed, and unusually interested in their environment.

According to the researchers, the height of the reaction to LSD occurred about a half hour after administration of the drug and persisted for 2 or 3 hours.

Oral Dose: After several experiments in which the drug showed these results on an intramuscular dosage of 25 mg, the physicians switched to oral administration and increased the dosage to 100 mg once a week early in the morning. Then the dosage was gradually increased to twice or three times a week as no untoward side effects were noticed, and the favorable reaction to the drug persisted. Finally, the drug was given daily and was continued for about 6 weeks.

The physicians conclude from the experiment that:

- LSD-25 produced some mild degree of favorable response with slow and steady progression in the severely disturbed children.

- The drug did not produce any severe side effects, toxicity, or untoward responses.

- The children were generally happier; their mood was "high" in the hours following ingestion of the drug.

- The drug reduced the children's former hostility.

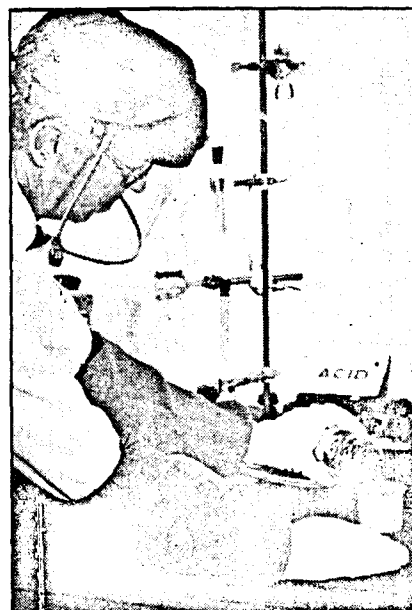
- Physical condition of the children tended to improve.

UML-491: The physicians also report later experiments along the same lines with a methylated derivative of LSD, known by the code name UML-491.

Preliminary experiments with 8 withdrawn schizophrenic children, given 8 mg of UML-491 in 4 divided doses daily, showed somewhat similar results to those which had previously been obtained with LSD.

The 3 researchers note that both LSD and UML, which are derivatives of dilysergic acid, have thus far been used only experimentally in schizophrenic children in the hope that more effective therapeutic derivatives will be discovered in the future.

Both drugs were supplied by Sandoz, which also stresses the preliminary nature of the experiments, pointing out that many more studies will have to be made before these drugs can be accepted for large-scale use in schizophrenic children.



ACID TEST: Shatterproof and non-porous, the beaker depicted above is being put through the "acid test". Made of 'Teflon' FEP-fluorocarbon resin, this type of laboratory ware is able to resist heat, acids, and solvents. It is manufactured by the Nalge Co, Rochester, N.Y.

Oral Phenethicillin Held As Effective As Penicillin G In Otitis Media Therapy

Oral doses of phenethicillin proved to be equally as effective as intramuscular injections of penicillin G in curing acute suppurative otitis media in a group of children, states Dr. Ronald A. McNeill of Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, in the *British Medical Journal*.

He reports that 26 children were given the oral phenethicillin and 22 Penicillin G. "All patients were free of pain within 48 hours of the beginning of treatment," notes Dr. McNeill, adding that most of the patients' ears were dry in 72 hours.

Although the response of many patients was slower to phenethicillin than to penicillin G, Dr. McNeill says that the synthetic penicillin "appears to be the treatment of choice in acute otitis media in childhood" because it brings on adequate blood levels, is palatable to children, and "has none of the side effects on the intestinal tract common to other oral antibiotics."

In acute suppurative otitis media with mastoiditis, however, Dr. McNeill recommends penicillin G because it produces slightly quicker response.

Choice: In another report on synthetic penicillins in the *British Medical Journal*, 2 London physicians report that

methicillin is now the antibiotic drug of choice for treating severe multiple-resistant staphylococcal infections in Hammersmith Hospital, which is located in London.

They used the drug on 34 patients over a 16-month period. The response to the drug was excellent in some cases, but in those patients with serious underlying disease, report Drs. J. M. Dickinson and N. B. Pride, the response was not as good.

They encountered no side effects in the use of the drug, although 2 patients had "considerable pain" at the sites of injection.

The drug was given at the rate of 6 gm daily for the first 48 hours and 4 gm daily thereafter. Administration of phenethicillin was accomplished by intramuscular injection.

Gives School Flu Vaccine

To emphasize the pharmacy's role in public health, RxMan James M. Rossetti, manager of the East End Drug Co, Dayton, Ohio, has donated a supply of influenza vaccine to a local high school for the inoculation of basketball players.