EFFECTIVENESS OF CYSTICERCOSIS TREATMENT BY INJECTION
OF QUININE SULPHATE IN SITU

Human cysticercosis caused by Taenia solium is a far more important public health
problem than human taeniasis in Vietnam.
It is a serious somatic disease that may involve
different organs and tissues. Consequences are
great when larvae localize in the ear, eye,
central nervous system or heart. We have the
cases of psychic symptoms, including epileptic
seizures, serious disability with high
mortality rate. The highest prevalence of
T. solium cysticercosis is now found in rural
and mountainous areas in Vietnam.
Following the medical literature, many
drugs are effective against T. solium, but no
specific chemotherapy of cysticercosis has been
known. The treatment is only surgical excision
of cysticerci, but this way is difficult for realiza-
tion and the patient suffers too much for it.
We replaced the surgical excision by injections
of 0.5 g quinine sulphate dissolved in 2 ml
sterilized water per cysticercus. The injection
destroyed the cysticercus immediately, but since
the subcutaneous cysticerci were numerous,
consecutive injections were necessary to destroy
all of them. Regularly we applied 3 to 7 injections
per day and this series was repeated every day
until the full elimination of subcutaneous cysti-
cerci.
The pathological changes were decreased
and muscular pain, weakness, fatigue, cramps,
recurrent epileptic attacks of Jacksonian type,
cataract, sensory and mental symptoms disap-
peared. All of the 30 patients treated recognized
the disappearance of transitory paresis, failing
vision, sudden headache and insomnia and the
effects of long duration.
We suggest that the destruction of at least
some of the subcutaneous cysticerci reduces
the degree of toxic manifestation changing
the severe infection to a light one. The de-
struction of subcutaneous cysticerci, obviously,
prevents the later implantation of cysticerci
in other important organs and is now one of
satisfactory treatments.

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