

**Pap A. G., Zasukhin D. N. (Eds): Toksoplazmoz cheloveka (Toxoplasmosis of man)**  
*Publishing House "Medicina", Moscow, 192 pp., 1974. Price 1.23 R.*

An impressive group of world-recognized Soviet authorities in the field of toxoplasmosis have participated in this book on a disease which, in the words of the authors, is one of the most serious parasitic infections of animals and man. Toxoplasmosis has received considerable attention from physicians of various medical disciplines. In view of its wide distribution, it causes serious problems in pediatric pathology and, therefore, the development of effective measures for the control of perinatal mortality is one of the most important assignments. An early diagnosis in women of the fertile age, and correct treatment, are indispensable in the prevention of the congenital form of this infection and of heavy nervous and psychic disorder in affected children. Since the course of infection shows considerable variation, the understanding of the biology of *Toxoplasma* organisms and of immune processes is of greatest importance.

The book has been divided into seven chapters. In Chapter One, a detailed description is given by Professor Zasukhin of the history of *Toxoplasma* research; this is followed by a comprehensive biographical review by Dr. Josef Janků, the first to describe a case of congenital toxoplasmosis in man confirmed by the finding of typical forms of the parasite. The next paragraphs deal with the morphology of the parasite *Toxoplasma gondii*, its life cycle, properties of the various strains of the parasite, and resistance. Pathogenesis is described by Sokol and Ovcharenko, pathological anatomy by Ivanovskaya and Surokin. Chapter Two deals with the epidemiology of toxoplasmosis. Kovaleva discusses questions of the distribution of infection in the population, and of its sources. Melnik and Grigorashchenko deal with the routes of distribution and the mechanism of infection. Chapter Three contains an article by Melchenko on immunity to toxoplasmosis. Chapter Four is devoted to the clinic. Classification and the clinical course of toxoplasmosis are described by Sokol and Ovcharenko. Various forms of acquired toxoplasmosis are described by Pap, Gutman, Shpak and Gershman, who discuss in addition to the most frequent form, i.e., an affection of the lymphatic system, affections of internal organs such as the circulatory system, respiratory organs and the liver, endocrine disturbances, an infection of the organ of sight and the nervous system. Gershman and Bogdanyuk describe the congenital form of infection with its mostly chronic course. The picture is that of an affection of the nervous system and the eye mimicking chronic meningoencephalitis, epilepsy, hypothalamic syndrome, etc.

A separate chapter by Pap and Chirkova is devoted to problems of toxoplasmosis and pregnancy. The authors show the unfavourable influence of toxoplasmosis on pregnancy, delivery, the state of the foetus and the newborn child. In the obstetric history of women infected with toxoplasmosis, spontaneous abortions were reported in 50% of the cases. Other pathological features are stillbirth and disturbances in the development of the foetus and child. The danger of abortion due to endocrine disorder is frequently associated with toxoplasmosis. In view of a changed reactivity of the organism of pregnant women, gravidity is often complicated by toxoplasmosis, premature discharge of the amniotic fluid, asphyxia of the foetus, bleeding and complications occurring during the postnatal period. A phonoelectrocardiographic analysis disclosed various changes in the activity of the heart in 80% of foeti from infected women. Chapter Six contains articles on the diagnosis of toxoplasmosis. Pap and Gutman present a survey of clinical diagnostic criteria, standard clinical and laboratory examination, auxiliary examination informing on the functional state of the various organs and systems, immunological and parasitological examination completed with serological examination. Laboratory diagnostic methods are described by Kovaleva. Chapter Seven deals with therapeutic and control measures. Chemotherapeutic treatment is discussed by Sokol, Pap and Shpak. A description is given of the dosage of pyrimethamine and sulphadimidine in accord with instructions issued by the Pharmacological Committee of the Ministry of Health, USSR, of the method used for the treatment of toxoplasmosis of the eye with Norsulphazol iontophoresis, treatment with Aminochinol, antigenic therapy with toxoplasmin application of corticosteroids. Melnik and Grigorashchenko draw attention to the fact that an understanding of epidemiological and epizootiological peculiarities of the infection are a fundamental requirement for the development of effective control measures. They describe sanitary measures to be followed when handling animals, which may be a source of infection, and raw meat products, and discuss the modes of tracing the incidence of infection in women of fertile age.

The book is a worthwhile contribution to a better understanding of toxoplasmosis. At the same time, it is a useful and vital source of ready and authoritative information obtained by the Soviet authors during their prolonged investigation of this parasitic infection. It contains useful suggestions for health measures, which can readily be introduced to the practice.

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