

M. N. Melnik: *Epidemiologiya i profilaktika toksoplasmoza v USSR. (Epidemiology and prophylaxis of toxoplasmosis in the Ukrainian S.S.R.). Publ. House Zdorovya, Kiev 1974, 144 pp., 30 Tables, 13 Figs. Price 56 cop.*

This book presents the data on the distribution of toxoplasmosis in man and farm and synanthropic animals of different natural-geographical zones of the Ukrainian S.S.R. As it is said in the introduction, toxoplasmosis causes serious disorders encountered especially in obstetrics and children's pathology. The causative agent of this infection is able to infest all species of domestic and wild mammals and birds. The workers of some professions are exposed to an increased risk of the infection.

The book consists of 4 chapters. In Chapter 1 "Distribution of toxoplasmosis in farm and wild animals" besides a survey of literature there are the results of serological examinations of animals in the foci of toxoplasmosis compared with the regions where the infection was not registered. The mean positivity of the complement-fixation test was 27.5 % compared to 10.6 % of the other group. Chapter 2 deals with the "Paths of infection and factor of spreading of toxoplasmosis". The experiments using different ways of transmission of the infection to animals under laboratory conditions are described. The substantial part of the work is in Chapter 3 entitled "Spread of toxoplasmosis in man". The author gives results of toxoplasmin tests carried out on a large number (1,716,699) of practically healthy inhabitants of the Ukraine. Great differences were observed in different regions, the maximum being 17.76 % in Krym Region and minimum 0.76% in Roven Region. The complement-fixation tests revealed that the occurrence of antibodies in the inhabitants of steppe regions (14.5 ± 0.1 %) is higher than in the inhabitants of forest and forest-steppe regions (5.6 ± 0.1 %). The highest incidence of infection was found in persons exposed to infection in their profession, especially the employees of meat-packing plants working up the raw meat, and an influence of sanitary and hygienic conditions in the farms was also observed. Young people working in the meat-packing plants and the students of zootechnical faculties become

infected at an increasing rate already during some months of their employment. In the further text the results of examination of different groups of ill people are given. As it is stressed in Chapter 4 "Prophylaxis of toxoplasmosis", the efficacy of the control of this disease depends on the cooperation of epidemiologists, hygienists, veterinarians, parasitologists and physicians of various specializations. A complex of measures to be adopted for liquidation of foci of disease is also discussed in this chapter. In the author's opinion, the basic preventive measure is the thermic treatment of the meat of infected animals and protection of the foodstuffs against the contamination by the causative agents. He recommends periodical examinations of persons endangered by the infection during the work and of women in fertile age as a prophylaxis against congenital toxoplasmosis. The book is complemented by methods of diagnosis of toxoplasmosis in various groups of inhabitants, types of card-registers and questionnaires. The list of literature contains 166 citations.

Due to extensive medical and sanitary measures adopted in the Ukrainian S.S.R. and other republics of the U.S.S.R. the indexes of propagation of infective diseases have been considerably lowered. However, there still remain many questions to be solved, among them also the epidemiology and prophylaxis of toxoplasmosis. The book is intended for epidemiologists, infectionists, pediatricists, obstetricians and gynecologists, as well as for scientific workers in the field of epidemiology, parasitology, immunology, obstetrics and pediatrics. It demonstrates the high erudition and extraordinary organizational abilities of the author, who succeeded in collecting such a number of basic data on the epidemiology of toxoplasmosis that has never been reported before. On the basis of these data he worked out and proposed practical organizational and prophylactic measures.

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