

An atlas of sensitivity to tuberculin, PPD-B, and histoplasmin in the United States.

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Abstract : This is a valuable contribution to the epidemiology of tuberculosis in the United States of America which it would be well to emulate in Europe (including the United Kingdom).

Since 1958 all recruits to the U.S. Navy have been skin-tested with PPD, PPD-R (tubercle bacillus) and histoplasmin. The Mantoux test was used and the dose was 5 TU.

equivalent. The tests were read at 48 hours and the diameter of induration. The criterion of a positive tuberculin reaction was set at 10 mm. or more and Battey and histoplasmin reactions at 4 mm. or more.

During the period of 7 1/2 years 671 007 recruits of whom 94.4% were white, 5 years and residents of the United States (excluding Alaska and Hawaii), 100 000 had lived all their lives in a single county and these represent an unusual group in which to study geographical variations in sensitivity.

The reactor rate to tuberculin among all white recruits was 4.0%; for those always lived in a single county it was 3.8% and for others born in the U.S.A. born outside the U.S.A. it was 19.2% and for non-whites 12.6%. In contrast to this finding, sensitivity to PPD-B and histoplasmin did not differ appreciably according to county. In large sections of the north-central part of the U.S. less than 2% reacted, but as in Kentucky, rates of 6-10% were found and in recruits from along the Mississippi 10-17%.

The overall frequency of reactions to PPD-B was 33%. The lowest rates (10%) were found in recruits from the north and west with gradually increasing frequency toward the southeast where rates of 70% and more were found. It was thought that the reactions to PPD-B were cross reactions induced by sensitivity caused by infection with still unidentified mycobacteria.

The overall frequency of reactions to histoplasmin was 20%. Rates of up to 70% were concentrated in the east-central states. In most of the northwest, north and south Atlantic states reactions to histoplasmin were rare. The authors have concluded that most of the reactions were due to infection with *Coccidioides immitis* and sensitivity to still unidentified fungi.

It is not possible to do more in an abstract than indicate the main findings of this study. These are given in great detail both in maps and tables. In summary-tuberculin reactor rates are highest in densely populated or economically poor areas where infection is likely to be transmitted from man to man. For *Histoplasma*, foci of contamination are thought to be the reservoirs of infection, and the risk of being a reactor to histoplasmin is increased with increased contact with the soil. For the atypical mycobacteria the factor of sensitivity is geographical. The organisms responsible for sensitivity to PPD-B do not appear to be transmitted from man to man but exist in soil and water. *H. G. Calwell.*

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Intraaxial brain tumors, it is obvious that the open set splits the language of images.