

The Treatment of Pneumococccic Meningitis with Penicillin. A Study of 125 Consecutive Cases, with 73% Recovery.

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Abstract : 1. In 125 consecutive cases of pneumococccic meningitis, penicillin was administered intrathecally in all but 2 instances. In addition, all the patients were treated with penicillin intramuscularly and most of them received also a sulfonamide sulfadiazine.

"2. The method of treatment and dosage have been described. It was found

few exceptions, the larger intrathecal doses of penicillin have been well tolerated.
"3. Of the 125 patients, 92 recovered and 33 died, representing a recovery rate of 73.6%. The prognosis was decidedly worse in the older age groups.

"4. An attempt to treat 8 patients with intramuscular but without intraspinal injection of penicillin in conjunction with sulfadiazine, proved successful in only 2 instances.

"5. In this series there were only a few instances in which a complication or death was attributable to the intrathecal administration of penicillin. The rare occurrence of a severe allergic reaction or complication should not be a deterrent to the administration of penicillin intrathecally.

"6. Neurologic sequelae were encountered in a small number of cases. The most serious brain damage were all in infants under 1 year of age.

"7. In this series it was difficult to evaluate properly the role of the adjunctive use of sulfadiazine."

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