

NAV1.960105.027

73 12 03

DD-DR&E (AR)
636 (3900)

72 12 20 H. Termination U U N/A NL X
63771N M4305 .05 3089AGG6

(U) Cytosine arabinoside treatment of smallpox (variola minor); effects on the virus and the disease.

003500 Clinical Medicine

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(U) Smallpox (variola minor); (U) Cytosine arabinoside; (U) Chemotherapy; (U) Virucidal action.

23.(U) To define the efficacy of cytosine arabinoside in lessening the morbidity and mortality of smallpox (variola minor), a disease for which there is at present no effective treatment; (2) To determine the in vivo effect of cytosine arabinoside on smallpox virus (Poxvirus variolae).

24.(U) Patients with smallpox will be administered, in a double-blind fashion, cytosine arabinoside at a dosage of 100 mg/sq m of body surface per day by iv push or placebo for four (4) consecutive days. Clinical observations and general laboratory data will be obtained and tabulated on each patient. Specimens for virus isolation and determination of host antibody response will be collected prior to, during, and subsequent to administration of drug in each patient.

25.(U) (Jan.73-Jan.74) Eighteen patients, 9 received drug and 9 placebo, were studied in accordance with the protocol. The viral and sera specimens from each patient have been returned to the Upjohn Company for serological and virological studies. Clinical response and laboratory data were compared before the drug and placebo code was broken; there was no indication of any drug effectiveness upon disease morbidity or mortality. Upon completion and assessment of all data, a manuscript will be completed.

The W.H.O. Smallpox Eradication Program in Ethiopia has been so successful that further clinical studies in Addis Ababa are precluded.