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U. S. ARMY MEDICAL NUTRITION LABORATORY
Fitzsimons Army Hospital
Denver 8, Colorado

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17 June 1958

Report of

THE MEDICAL PROTECTION PLAN FOR THE
IRRADIATED FOOD TASTE PANEL

by

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IRRADIATED FOOD TASTE PANEL

OBJECT:

To summarize the physical examination and clinical laboratory data submitted to this laboratory on members of the Irradiated Food Taste Panel.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS:

A medical protection plan consisting of periodic routine histories, physical examinations, hemograms, urinalyses, and several liver function tests was inaugurated on 8 April 1954 for the protection of members of the Irradiated Food Taste Panel at the Quartermaster Food and Container Institute, Chicago. The program was terminated on 17 March 1958 after all findings on 96 tasters proved negative. Within the limits of the medical data available, no physical or clinical laboratory abnormalities can be attributed to the tasting of irradiated foods by Taste Panel members. It is emphasized that the original protocol was not followed rigidly, and the validity of the above conclusion rests on a reasonably large number of essentially random observations on the majority of the Taste Panel members.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Medical Protection Plan for the Irradiated Food Taste Panel has completed its usefulness.

APPROVED:

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Technical Director

L. M. Hursh

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Commanding

INTRODUCTION.

The Irradiated Food Taste Panel consisted of members of the staff, both military and civilian, of the Quartermaster Food and Container Institute, Chicago, Illinois. The primary purpose of the group was to taste irradiated foods for palatability. On 8 April 1954, the protocol for the Medical Protection Plan was established by order of the Research and Development Division of the Surgeon General's Office. The responsibility for conduct of the physical examinations and clinical laboratory tests was placed under the jurisdiction of the Surgeon of the 5th Army and subsequently delegated to the 5th Army Dispensary. The advisory responsibility for medical supervision of the Taste Panel members was delegated to the U. S. Army Medical Nutrition Laboratory in cooperation with the Surgeon of the 5th Army. The protocol was essentially as follows:

1. A brief history and physical examination by a physician will be performed before the taste testing begins (the annual type history and physical examination will be used as a guide). Special attention will be directed to the skin and gastro-intestinal systems. A repeat physical examination will be accomplished in one year or earlier if any unusual illnesses occur or if the individual intends to depart from the administrative and health protection control of the QMF&CI.
2. Laboratory studies:
 - a. A hemogram will be performed to include hemoglobin, white blood cell count, differential count, and platelet count on the day before the taste testing, on the seventh day after the taste testing, and on the first, sixth, and twelfth months thereafter.
 - b. A complete urinalysis will be performed to include tests for specific gravity, albumin, sugar, and microscopic examination on the day before the taste testing, on the seventh day after the taste testing, and on the first, sixth and twelfth months thereafter.
 - c. Liver function tests will be performed to include serum bilirubin and thymol turbidity before taste testing and at the end of six and twelve months.

The data collected according to the above protocol were submitted to the medical officer at the U. S. Army Medical Nutrition Laboratory authorized to supervise the medical protection of the

Taste Panel members. On the basis of reviewing such data on receipt, the Surgeon of the 5th Army was advised as to whether each Panel member should be accepted on the Panel, continued on the Panel, or rejected from the Panel for medical reasons. However, final decision rested with the Surgeon of the 5th Army and the 5th Army Dispensary. No specific criteria for acceptance, continuance, or rejection of an individual Panel member were established. The decisions remained on the basis of the clinical judgment of the physicians involved.

On 17 March 1958, the Medical Protection Plan for the Irradiated Food Taste Panel was terminated by order of the Research and Development Division of the Surgeon General's Office, as having completed its usefulness. This report summarizes all of the medical data submitted to this laboratory.

RESULTS

Table I presents the names and subject numbers of all 153 members of the Taste Panel. There were 96 members on whom medical data were submitted and no significant abnormalities were noted. The findings in this group are summarized in Table II. No information was submitted to this laboratory on the times, frequency, and nature of irradiated food tasting. Therefore, no conclusions can be drawn concerning the accuracy with which the initial protocol was followed, except to state that there were many obvious omissions. The duration of member participation represents only the period of medical observation, and not the actual duration of food tasting.

Thirteen subjects (Table 1) were rejected from the Panel for medical reasons, some on initial examination and some following various periods of active participation on the Panel. All of the available laboratory data and the reasons for rejection for these 13 subjects are presented in Tables III and IV. None of the abnormalities noted can be attributed to the tasting of irradiated foods. For those rejections based on abnormal laboratory findings, the abnormalities were all present on initial examinations and simply verified by repeating the determinations.

Returning to Table I, there were 44 subjects assigned numbers but on whom no medical data were submitted to this laboratory.

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TABLE I

Taste Panel Members

Accepted panel members with medical data available

Subject number	Name	Subject number	Name
1	Bodner, Vic F.	56	Brown, Mary B.
2	Case, William H.	57	Conway, Thomas J.
3	Drake, Maurice P.	58	Donnelly, Donald E.
4	Evans, Belmont	59	Ehni, Richard L.
5	Fritzsche, Herbert W.	60	Freitag, Frederick K.
7	Graf, Robert L.	61	Harral, Charles Dwayne
8	Henick, Albert S.	62	King, Charles R.
9	Layman, Beverly J.	63	Lenaerts, Robert A.
10	Morgan, Bruce H.	64	Levin, Lesser B.
13	Pilgrim, Francis J.	68	Beck, Hugh S., Jr.
14	Pomerantz, Reuben	69	Bollman, Marion C.
16	Ryer, Robert III	70	Clark, Charles B.
17	Schutz, Howard G.	71	Johnson, Dorothy A.
18	Thomas, Miriam H.	72	Klingler, Chester P.
19&119	Biddinger, Guy R.	73	Shappee, Jonathan
20	Cole, Edmund R.	74	Sherman, Harold L.
21&118	Klicka, Mary V.	75	Spector, Harry
22	Kurtz, George W.	76	Swartz, Keith T.
23	Paull, Donald M.	77	Turner, Frank M.
24	Rentmeester, Kenneth R.	78	Wilson, Thomas W. M.
25	Schenck, George A., Jr.	79	Baker, Roger W.
26	Blair, James M.	80	Danald, George E.
27	Cosler, Horace B.	81	Lee, Frances H.
29	Heick, Ramon J.	82	Lirrot, Stephen
30	Strong, Lester R.	83	Leslie, Stuart W.
31	Witting, Richard H.	88	Niedermayer, Arthur
32	Woltman, Jack W.	104	Ekstrom, Carl F.
33	Cichon, Casimir	109	Potts, Robert T.
34	Davis, Adolf J.	110	Gold, Philip H.
35	Enright, John J.	112	Brandon, William A.
36	Garrett, Winsor K.	113	Tansig, Fred
37	Harriman, Hubert C.	116	Klein, Alvin A.
39	Snavely, Nell M.	117	Fong, Eddie
40	Villari, Frank K.	120	Kropf, Donald
41	Whitmer, Phillis S.	121	Thorp, Edward G., Jr.
42	Wodicka, Virgil O.	122	Price, James F.
43	Farrell, Kenneth T.	123	Akrep, Joseph P.
45	Kmieciak, Thaddeus C.	124	Keller, Robert
46	Kwiatkowski, Eugene V.	146	Boswell, James M.
47	Ryan, Joseph T., Jr.	147	Christensen, Fred
48	Thomas, Robert H.	148	Evans, Elizabeth
49	Tischer, Robert G.	149	Clark, Keith
50	Vogt, Ardeth J.	150	Gernon, Gerald D.
51	Togashi, Hachiro John	151	Kraus, Fred Jack
52	Goresline, Harry E.	152	Lipsky, Harry T.
53	Holgren, Clifford J., Jr.	153	Michel, Charles J.
54	Seaton, Richard W.	154	Briggs, Herman
55	Bishov, Solomon J.	155	Brockman, Maxwell C.

Total 96

TABLE I (Continued)

Panel members rejected
for medical reasonsPanel members with no
medical data available

Subject number	Name	Subject number	Name
6	Giffey, Joseph W., Jr.	84	Jackson, Gladys E.
11	Pedersen, Svend	85	Lopez, Isdell Y.
12	Peryam, David R.	86	Chambers, Henry
15	Raffensperger, Elsie L.	87	Kusch, Madeline
28	Feldberg, Charles	89	Despanl, John E.
38	Satchell, James L.	90	Major, Paul C.
44	Gorman, Lester J.	91	Joseph, Helen
65	MacKnight, John F.	92	McErlane, Rita
66	Mason, Omer E.	93	Kasper, Helen C.
67 & 107	Vance, Thelma H.	94	Kopera, Lillian
114	Wruk, Philip J.	95	Cholly, Arthur R.
115	Kolodny, Robert	96	Chung, Marion A.
145	Wallen, Dale	97	Proust, Florence
		98	Dennis, James
	Total <u>13</u>	99	Degلمان, Elizabeth
		100	Dombrowski, Sadye
		101	Watkins, Walter G.
		102	Bauer, Wanda
		103	Tolbert, Madgalene
		105	Finnestad, Donald K.
		106	Jenkins, Hamilton
		108	Wills, Lawrence
		111	Young, D. R. Dr.
		125	Allard, Dwight W.
		126	Lockwood, Mulford C.
		127	Davis, Queen V.
		128	Glover, Calorastine
		129	Saliskas, Marion
		130	Kerster, Hilda
		131	Reed, Frances L.
		132	Collins, Leona W.
		133	Moore, Edith K.
		134	Garfield, Louis
		135	Pompadour, Norine
		136	Fornet, Arthur W.
		137	Sippy, M. B.
		138	Sherburne, James L.
		139	Thomas, Dorothy
		140	Brown, Lilly M.
		141	Parent, Natalie L.
		142	Peppers, Joyce
		143	Holmes, Ann T.
		144	Robinson, Carey
		<u>?</u>	Wolf, Max
			Total <u>44</u>

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