

Journal summary

Gait analysis p 179

The leading article addresses the role of gait analysis in depth and discusses its importance, its advantages and disadvantages, and its place in the study to further the interest in how we walk.

Renal failure and erosive osteoarthritis p 183

In this paper from Australia unusually early and severe osteoarthritis is reported in two patients with chronic renal failure receiving long term treatment. The possibility is discussed that a number of factors associated with chronic renal decompensation may be playing a part.

High tibial osteotomy and its effect on upper tibial venous drainage p 188

The effect of high tibial osteotomy on the upper tibial venous pattern in primary osteoarthritis of the knee was studied at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. Preoperatively there was engorgement and tortuosity of the medullary sinusoids with a remarkable return to normality and relief of pain after operation.

A new radiographic scoring system p 194

This system uses a computerised analysis of digital stored images of knee radiographs. It was found to be sensitive, reproducible, and quick. It is suggested that this is a useful technique to help understand the progression of arthritis and perhaps the underlying nature of the disease.

Anti-IgE autoantibodies in systemic sclerosis p 201

An enzyme immunoassay was used to determine the prevalence of anti-IgE autoantibodies in 66 patients with scleroderma. It was concluded that the presence of the autoantibody was not associated with the duration of the disease, its extent, or with mortality.

Leucocyte migration in Behçet's syndrome p 206

Fifteen patients were studied using a skin window technique, and where possible this was done when they were not receiving any treatment. The migration was increased in the presence of active disease with a change in the morphology of the neutrophils. Steroid treatment seemed to have no effect. It is suggested that neutrophil hyperactivity may be important in the pathogenesis of the syndrome.

Calcific shoulder peri-arthritis in adult diabetes mellitus p 211

This controlled study from Athens involved a large number of adult onset diabetic patients, of whom about one third had shoulder calcification compared with one tenth of the control population. This seemed to be associated with diabetes of long duration treated with insulin. A possible relation is discussed.

Glycosaminoglycans in amyloid fibrils associated with juvenile rheumatoid arthritis p 215

An association between glycosaminoglycans and tissue deposits of amyloid has previously been noted. This study looked at purified preparations of hepatic amyloid fibrils from human AA type secondary amyloidosis and the presence of glycosaminoglycans. The latter were shown to be a mixture of chondroitin sulphate, dermatan sulphate, and heparin/heparan sulphate. It is suggested that the presence of glycosaminoglycans in amyloid may play a part in the incorporation of structurally diverse protein precursors into amyloid fibrils.

Immunological and immunohistochemical analysis of rheumatoid nodules p 220

The pathophysiology of the rheumatoid nodule was examined in this Japanese study, and significant amounts of interleukin 1-like activity and prostaglandin E₂ were detected in the supernatants from in vitro organ cultures of the nodule tissue. It is suggested that both these substances may be deeply involved in the formation of rheumatoid nodules.

A hospital study of peripheral arthritis in the elderly p 227

One hundred patients admitted to an acute geriatric unit were examined. The presence of arthritis and its severity were related to functional independence and to the patient's recognition of the effect the arthritis was having on that independence. Three quarters had clinical peripheral arthritis, and in almost half this was a major feature affecting loss of function. The authors plead that increased medical awareness of this problem in the elderly is required.

Procainamide induced lupus syndrome, pulmonary embolism, and anticardiolipin antibodies p 232

Antiphospholipid antibodies were found associated

with multiple pulmonary thromboemboli in a man with procainamide induced lupus syndrome.

SLE with hypoglossal nerve palsy, severe acute pneumonitis, and pulmonary amyloidosis p 236
A 53 year old Chinese man with systemic lupus erythematosus with an isolated nerve palsy died from acute pneumonitis. He was found to have amyloid deposits in both lung and kidney. This highly unusual collection of complications is described and discussed.

Primary hypertrophic osteoarthropathy with endothelial and connective tissue involvement p 240
This condition, pachydermoperiostosis, is well known associated with chronic or neoplastic disease or in a primary form. Modifications to the vessels and connective tissue are described here in a 19 year old man.

***Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia and low dose methotrexate treatment for psoriatic arthropathy** p 247
It is thought that the serious complication reported here in a 16 year old girl with psoriatic arthropathy may have been precipitated by an interaction

between methotrexate treatment and the use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug.

Acute non-infectious arthritis of the hip in rheumatoid arthritis p 255
The synovial membrane findings from a patient with rheumatoid arthritis who developed severe acute hip pain are described. This appears to be a distinct syndrome with its own pathological and clinical features.

Chronic Q fever with mixed cryoglobulinaemia p 256
A 47 year old woman presented with a six month history of a vasculitic rash, splenomegaly, and cardiac murmurs and was found to have evidence of *Coxiella burnetii* infection with mixed cryoglobulinaemia.

Viewpoint p 256
A large number of drugs are available for the management of rheumatoid arthritis, and the various uses of these drugs singly or in combination can cause considerable confusion unless we have clear ideas of their strengths and weaknesses. The viewpoint article in this issue addresses this particular problem.