

HAMYCIN IN THE TREATMENT OF VAGINAL MONILIASIS

(Preliminary Observations)

by

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Hamycin is an antifungal antibiotic recently developed at Hindustan Antibiotics Research Centre, Pimpri. It is a polyene antibiotic belonging to the group heptaene. It is produced by one of the *Streptomyces species*, *Streptomyces pimprina* Thirum., a new species of mould isolated from soil in Pimpri. The In vitro spectrum of the antibiotic showed a remarkable activity against the yeast group of fungi, particularly *Candida albicans*. It was found to be effective even at as low concentrations as one in 100 million parts (Thirumalachar et al, 1960). The results of 35 cases of leucorrhoea caused by vaginal moniliasis treated with Hamycin are presented in this paper.

Material and Methods

Thirty-five cases of leucorrhoea caused by vaginal moniliasis were taken up for this study. Cases of leucorrhoea due to other causes like

Trichomonas infection and cervicitis were excluded, as it was the primary intention to see the effect of the drug in unmixed infection of Candidiasis.

The diagnosis in all cases was confirmed both microscopically and by the artificial culture of the causative organism. The cultures were done on Sabouraud — cycloheximide — chloramphenicol medium. Isolation and identification of *Candida* species was done by sugar fermentation and assimilation tests. Corn-meal-agar was used in place of Nickerson's medium for chlamydospore formation, as it has been pointed out that other fungi like *Geotrichum* and also some bacteria give dark coloured growths similar to *Candida* growth on Nickerson's medium (Taschjian 1957).

Patients were treated with local application of Hamycin (0.1% glycerine suspension) with a sterile cotton swab. The drug was applied twice

a day for 7 to 10 days. Subjective symptoms and local condition were noted in all cases. A further course of treatment for one week was given to patients who did not have symptomatic relief. Reculture was done after 4 to 5 days after the completion of the treatment. It was done only in 28 cases as the other patients did not turn up again for the follow-up. Patients were also observed for any toxic effects of the drug.

Observations

Candida albicans was the causative organism in 29 cases, in five *C. tropicalis* was isolated, and in one *C. pseudotropicalis* was found. Three patients were pregnant and none of the cases was diabetic. Varying degree of pruritus was complained of by all the cases. The lesions were primarily in the vagina and none had vulvitis nor excoriation of the vulva.

Symptomatic cure was obtained in 28 cases by 7 to 10 days of treatment, and in the rest of the cases by the 15th day of the treatment. Mycological follow-up revealed that cultures in 26 cases became negative by 12th to 15th day. No case of relapse was noted in the series.

Total no. of cases: 35.

Symptomatic cure: (1) 28 cases by 7-10 days, (2) all cases by 15th day.

Follow-up: 28 cases.

Mycological cure: 28 cases by 12 to 15 days.

No attempt was made to compare the efficacy of this antibiotic with others. It was observed that the patients had considerable relief of symptoms within first two days of application of the drug. No side effects

of the drug were noted during the course of treatment.

Summary and Conclusions

1. Thirty-five cases of vaginal moniliasis treated with anti-fungal antibiotic Hamycin were studied.
2. In 28 cases symptomatic cure was obtained by 7 to 10 days and in all cases by 15th day.
3. Mycological cure was obtained in 26 of the 28 cases, that were followed-up, by 12 to 15 days.
4. The drug was found to be safe and no side-effects were noticed.
5. Hamycin was found to be very effective in the treatment of vaginal Moniliasis.

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