

BODY OF REPORT

SEATO Medic Study No. 94                      Studies on the Pathology of Liver Diseases in Thailand: The Role of Dengue Virus in Causing Hepatitis.

Project No. 3A 025601 A 811                      Military Medical Research Program  
S. E. Asia

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    Division of Medical Research Laboratories

    Department of Geographic Pathology

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Objective: The objective of this study is to determine if dengue virus may be an etiologic agent of hepatitis in adults in Thailand. The hypothesis for this is based on the observation that in infants and children who died of hemorrhagic fever, there are some alterations in the liver resembling hepatitis seen in yellow fever. Liver function studies on several series of infants and children who were suffering from this disease revealed that there were some rises in transaminase

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levels of both GOT and GPT type even though not quite as high as commonly encountered in classical cases of hepatitis. The rises in transaminase levels are sometimes associated with coagulation defect due to the depression of several factors of prothrombin complex and are not necessarily associated with the phenomenon of shock. These observations suggest that dengue virus may, under certain circumstances, involve the liver directly, and prompt the initiation of this study.

Description: A registry of liver pathology was established at the Department of Pathology, Siriraj Hospital Medical College. Liver biopsies from patients who received the diagnosis of hepatitis were submitted to this registry with appropriate blood and serum for liver function studies and for the determination of dengue and chikungunya antibodies, as well as antibodies for leptospira and rickettsiae in acute and convalescent serum specimens. Up to the end of the period of annual report (March, 31, 1965) biopsies of one hundred and ten cases of hepatitis have been collected. Analysis and correlation between the findings and the concomitant dengue infection (if any) will be done pending a complete result of serologic analysis. This study is not concluded and the analysis will be made as a part of the study on the character of viral hepatitis in Thailand (SEATO Medic Study No. 92).

Conclusion: Conclusion is not available at this time.