

## RELATION BETWEEN VARICELLA AND HERPES ZOSTER

M. Radkov

Varicella (V) is an acute infectious disease caused by a filtrated virus (*Strongyoplasma varicellae*) which is transmitted by air (respiratory disease). It is characterized with a vesicular rash and a relatively weak total intoxication of the organism. Closely related to varicella-virus is the virus causing Herpes zoster (HZ). First in 1888 Bocay reported the possible relation between V and HZ demonstrating 122 cases with V infected by patients with HZ (4). Later, many other authors confirm his opinion, thus proving the following facts and details: 1) Similar morphologic features of both viruses. 2) Cross-reaction agglutination of elementary corpuscles with serum of patients overgone herpes disease. 3) Varicella-cases after a contact with HZ-patients. 4) Patients with HZ having a secondary V (1, 5, 7, 9, 10).

K. Kundratitz (1925) proves experimentally that children vaccinated with HZ are immune towards both HZ and V, whereas children overgone HZ do not suffer from V (8). Some authors suggest total identity of both viruses, others accept that V-virus is related to HZ-virus but not the same (2) while third group of authors presume that the two viruses are antigen-variants of only one virus (6).

M. I. Dementiev concludes that HZ is a polyetiologic disease sometimes caused even by V-virus (4). A. Wise and H. Sulzberger suggest that HZ is an allergic or immune form of V affecting only those people who had suffered from V in the past (3). S. D. Nosov reports several cases of V: the children had contacted patients with HZ before that. One of these cases is his own son (7-year old) being in contact with his 13-year old sister (4). Quite rarer are the contradictory cases — HZ in adults being in contacts with children suffering from V (6).

The problem of the relations between V and HZ is an important one and requires a detailed study; the similarity of both viruses is a certain difficulty in the epidemiology and immunology of the two diseases.

We demonstrate our experience in characterizing the mutual relatedness between V and HZ:

In our clinic of Infectious Diseases, Higher Institute of Medicine, Varna city, we admitted two sisters: Dora I., age 10, clin. rec. No. 1790/16<sup>th</sup> May, 1980 and Desislava I., age 2, clin. rec. No. 1791/16<sup>th</sup> May, 1980. Children were reported to get ill simultaneously with a rash and febrility. Older sister had suffered from V in her early childhood, whereas the younger one had not. Epidemiological investigation proved their contacts with a neighbouring child with a scarlet-fever, but there were a few cases of V in the school too.

**Examinations:** Dora I. — little vesicles with bloodish crusts spread over the skin of thorax (more to the right) in the direction of intercostal nerves. Weak pain, itches. Head and other body parts — no rash. Buccal mucosa and lymph nodes — normal. Desislava I. — scattered rash over the skin of face,

back, thorax, abdomen, head; little vesicles with transparent fluid spread over a well expressed hyperemic surface. Some vesicles had no exudation. On the right thoracal skin surface the vesicles followed the direction of intercostal nerves but not in groups. Definite itches. Lymph nodes — moderately enlarged in axillar region and along m. sternocleidomastoideus. Physical status — satisfying; the child was afebrile. Second examination revealed out new vesicles over hyperemic skin.

Both sisters having a contact with their friend suffering from V fell simultaneously ill: older sister (overgone V before) suffered from HZ this time, whereas younger one (having no immunity against V or HZ) caught V. It is worth-mentioning that our case of V had a similar thoracal rash to HZ, but there were no groups of vesicles.

Our experience confirms the opinion that HZ with located manifestations in adults (overgone V) is a clinical response of partially immune individuals to a certain exogenic reinfection.

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#### О СВЯЗИ МЕЖДУ ВЕТРЯНОЙ ОСПОЙ И HERPES ZOSTER

М. Радков

#### РЕЗЮМЕ

Обсуждается вопрос о связи между ветряной оспой и Herpes zoster. Рассматривается заболевание двух сестер — 13 и 2 лет, у которых наблюдались различные картины обоих заболеваний. Заболевания передавались посредством контакта с одними и теми же донорами. Анализируются все данные клинических и лабораторных исследований с целью обнаружения связи между ветряной оспой и Herpes zoster.