

A CASE OF OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

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8.10.47. Patient, a baby boy, aged twenty-one days, was admitted to a children's cubicle ward at 7 p.m.

Previous History.

The baby was a three-weeks premature infant weighing 5 lbs. 9½ oz. at birth, and 6 lbs. 1 oz. when eleven days old.

He was breast-fed four-hourly; the mother having been admitted also. He had not been vaccinated.

The right eye had been discharging for two and a half weeks. Three injections of penicillin were given at a general hospital prior to admission.

On Admission.

On arrival the baby was put in a cot in a cubicle ward and all isolation precautions were taken.

A conjunctival swab was taken of the right conjunctival sac and sent for bacteriological examination. T.98⁸ P.120 R.30.

On Examination.

Both eyelids of the right eye were swollen with much purulent sanguineous discharge. Chemosis was present. The cornea was not bright.

The conjunctiva of the left eye was white, and the cornea bright and clear.

It was not possible to see the lens, vitreous and fundus oculi of both eyes.

Treatment was commenced at 9.30 p.m.

An intramuscular injection of penicillin 100,000 units/cc. was given at 9.30 p.m., and a course of penicillin and atropine drops was started; guttæ penicillin 2,500 units/cc. being instilled to the right eye every ten minutes for half an hour, and then half-hourly, after the discharge had been removed, and guttæ atropine 1 per cent. instilled every two hours.

As a precautionary measure guttæ penicillin 2,500 units/cc. was instilled two-hourly to left eye.

The baby slept considerably well during the first part of the night but became fretful early in the morning. One ounce of sterile glucose water was given at 2.30 a.m. Took feeds well at 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. T.98⁸ P. 126 R.30 B.O.т.

9.10.47. The condition of the right eye was much improved. The discharge was less profuse and the lids were less swollen. Guttæ penicillin was continued half-hourly and guttæ atropine 1 per cent. instilled b.d. to the right eye.

Guttæ penicillin to the left eye was discontinued.

An intramuscular injection of penicillin 100,000 units/1 cc. of sterile normal saline was given at 11 a.m. and repeated at 5 p.m.

The baby appeared more comfortable. Four-hourly feeding and barrier nursing were continued. The baby was bathed and attention paid to his mouth, nose, ears, umbilicus and excretory organs. Finger and toe nails, also attended to.

The treatment was continued to his right eye throughout the night. T.98⁸ P.142 R.30. B.O.т.

10.10.47. The condition of the eye continued to improve. Guttæ penicillin 2,500/units/cc. was instilled

hourly by day and two-hourly by night, following saline irrigations; guttæ atropine 1 per cent. was instilled b.d. to the right eye.

Four-hourly feeds were taken well and barrier nursing continued. Bathed with usual special attentions paid. The baby remained comfortable by day and slept well between intervals of treatment by night. T.98 P.138 R.30.

First culture report showed no definite micro-organisms, believed to be on account of penicillin therapy prior to admission.

11.10.47. The treatment to the eye was continued as on the previous day and night. Feeds were taken well and isolation maintained. T.98² P.146 R.30.

12.10.47. The condition of the right eye was greatly improved. The same treatment was given. Barrier nursing was continued and four-hourly feeds were taken well. Bathed daily. The baby slept well during the night. T.98⁶ P.148. R.34.

13.10.47. The baby had a good day. The treatment with penicillin and atropine was discontinued, but saline irrigations were continued b.d. To be discharged after forty-eight hours, if condition satisfactory.

14.10.47. The baby had a good day, taking his feeds well. Slept well during the night. T.98 P.148 R.30.

15.10.47. At 6 p.m. both eyes were noticed to be a little sticky. Conjunctival swab taken and sent for bacteriological examination. Guttæ penicillin 2,500 units/cc. recommenced hourly by day, and two-hourly by night to both eyes. Also saline irrigations continued.

Four-hourly feeds were taken well. Barrier nursing was continued. Discharge home was postponed. T.97⁸ P.140 R.32.

16.10.47. The penicillin was discontinued and a course of sulphamezathene was commenced; half a tablet being given at 10 p.m., and at 2 a.m., then a quarter of a tablet at 6 a.m. in 1 oz. of sterile glucose water. Saline irrigations were continued.

Patient continued to be breast-fed four-hourly and barrier nursed. The usual attentions were paid when the baby had its daily bath. T.99 P.128 R.28. A four-hourly T.P.R. chart was commenced at 10 p.m.

17.10.47. One teaspoonful sulphamezathene mixture (1.9 gr.) was given four-hourly. The eye condition showed improvement; the saline irrigations were continued.

Feeds were taken well and barrier nursing was continued T.98 P.130 R.24.

The second culture report showed staphylococci Aureus and diphtheroids in the right eye. No organisms present in the left eye.

18.10.47. The baby had a comfortable day. Daily bath with special attentions paid. Barrier nursing continued. The sulphamezathene mixture was given six-hourly by day only. Slept very well in the night. T.98 P.138 R.24.

19.10.47. The condition of the eyes had greatly improved and all treatment was discontinued. Barrier nursing was maintained. T.98 P.136 R.26.

20.10.47. The eye condition was quite satisfactory and the baby was discharged home. T.98 P.134 R.28.

Total amount of penicillin given

intramuscularly = 300,000 units.

Total amount of sulphamezathene given = 37.5 gr.

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