

Zeitschrift: Bulletin der Schweizerischen Akademie der Medizinischen Wissenschaften = Bulletin de l'Académie suisse des sciences médicales = Bollettino dell' Accademia svizzera delle scienze mediche

Herausgeber: Schweizerische Akademie der Medizinischen Wissenschaften

Band: 8 (1952)

Heft: 1-2: Symposium über die Beeinflussung des reaktiven Geschehens durch Hypophyse und Nebennierenrinde = Symposium on the influence of the hypophysis and the adrenal cortex on biological reactions = Symposium sur l'influence de l'hypophyse et de la corticostéroïde dans les réactions biologiques

Titelseiten

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Hämorrhagische Reaktionen **Hemorrhagic Reactions - Réactions hémorragiques**

616.005.1:615.361.814.3:615.777

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Hemorrhagic Reactions¹

By **G. Shwartzman, M.D.**

From the time of its discovery up to date, the phenomenon of local tissue reactivity has confronted us with certain characteristics which made us speculate whether it represents an experimental pattern for the production of a variety of diseases of obscure etiology and certain syndromes complicating diseases of known etiologies. I for one have always been impressed by the non-specificity of the phenomenon in the strict immunological sense, since it represented a new concept at a time when great emphasis was being laid upon specific reactions to specific causes. When search for new specific etiological agents came to a deadlock, there was an opportune moment to pay greater attention to the reactions of the host, to determine whether there exist mechanisms which may call forth synergistic action of multiple causative agents resulting in specific reactions to non-specific causes. Thinking along these lines was greatly aided by the demonstration of a characteristic pathological damage, namely, striking hemorrhagic necrosis in response to a variety of bacterial toxins, antigen-antibody complexes, and certain colloidal agents, in sites prepared by bacterial toxins. We had before us a characteristic, well defined type of pathological lesion which could be obtained by substances remote from one another in chemical structure and yet in spite of their non-specificity grouped in such a manner as to explain the clinically well known interactions of bacterial sensitizations with non-bacterial allergies, and a great variety of complications of bacterial and viral diseases by supervening secondary invaders and toxic agents. Vascular participation was the paramount basic principle underlying these reactions pointing out the profound pathological changes which may take place through the presence of toxic agents in the blood stream

¹ This investigation was supported in part by a research grant from the National Institutes of Health, Public Health Service, U.S.A.