

Illnesses Becoming Less Common Day By Day

OP Kapoor

1. Diarrhoea and Dysentery - amoebiasis as a cause of diarrhoea and dysentery has more or less disappeared and is hardly ever seen in modern practice. The cause is not better sanitation but a very frequent usage of Metronidazole.
2. Worms as a cause of abdominal pain has become extremely rare and hardly ever seen and will not be seen in future if drugs like Albendazole are continued to be used frequently.
3. Amoebic Liver Abscess has become a rarity. In future any patient diagnosed as Amoebic abscess should have a positive Elisa test for amoebiasis and a negative test for Alpha Foeto Protein to exclude cancer.
4. Dhatu as a presentation in males has decreased markedly and more or less disappeared. This is because chronic prostatitis does not persist because of frequent antibiotics which the patient gets.
In future blood test for PSA should be done to confirm chronic prostatitis and may be blood tests for Chlamydia and Herpes Simplex.
5. Tonsillitis has become a rarity. I hardly see one patient per year of tonsillitis
where there are patches on the tonsils, tonsillar glands are enlarged, there is leucocytosis with elevated ESR and high ASO Titre in the blood.
6. Rheumatic Heart Disease has more or less disappeared. I do get to see mitral stenosis 1-2 patients per year and even this is likely to become less in the coming years.
7. Valvular Diseases caused by Ergot preparation used in Parkinson's Disease has also disappeared because now only non-ergot preparations like Ropanerol are used.
8. Osteomalacia with the proper diagnosis showing elevated S.Alkaline Phosphatase, low Vit D with elevated PTH, cracked fractures of the ribs or pelvis has become very rare and I do not see more than half a dozen patients per year. This is possibly due to heavy use of Vit D by all the doctors and not because the people sit in the sun.
9. Leucorrhoea in middle class patients is becoming much much less than before.
10. Anaemia in women is being seen less often.
11. Finally, underweight patients are being seen much less often than overweight patients.

Ex. Hon. Physician, Jaslok Hospital and Bombay Hospital, Mumbai, Ex. Hon. Prof. of Medicine, Grant Medical College and JJ Hospital, Mumbai - 400 008.