

CORRESPONDENCE

ARTHRITIS: A VITAMIN DEFICIENCY DISEASE

Dear Sir,

This is the title of a monograph written by the distinguished Biochemist, E.C. Barton-Wright, D.Sc., F.R.I.C., F.R.I.C., F.I.Biol., published in 1973 and reprinted in 1974 and in 1975.

The purpose of the monograph is to prove that arthritis, both osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis, is due to a deficiency of pantothenic acid in the highly processed foods of modern diets. In the U.S.A. in 1965 there were known to be 10,000,000 arthritics, in 1973 there were 30,000,000. In Great Britain in 1963 there were 3,000,000 arthritics and in 1973 6,000,000.

In my experience the same is true of Malaysia. Nearly a quarter of my patients nowadays come to me complaining of rheumatism of various sorts.

The efficacy of calcium pantothenate is almost miraculous. It two tablets, 50 mgm size, are given in the morning, the same at midday and the same at night, i.e. six tablets per day, continued for weeks or months, the gratitude of one's patients is touching. The vitamin is non-toxic and has no side effects.

D. Reid Tweedie,
Estate medical Officer,
Sungei Siput N.
Perak.

COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE BIOAVAILABILITY AND DISSOLUTION BEHAVIOUR OF FIVE BRANDS OF TETRACYCLINE CAPSULES

Dear Sir,

It is well to know that the various brands of tetracycline capsules in this country differ in bio-availability and hence in efficiency, but what practical value does such a study contribute unless the identity of the makes of drugs is revealed to doctors who use them. Questions of ethics need not arise if the study (by Gan *et al.*, 1978) was done independently and scientifically, which presumably was the case.

Yours faithfully,
Neoh Choo Keong
M.B.,B.S.

Neoh Klinik,
Jalan Tunku Ibrahim,
Alor Star, Kedah.

REFERENCE

Gan, E.K., Lim, B.S. and Napsah bt. Mahmud (1978) Comparative Study of the Bioavailability and Dissolution Behaviour of Five Brands of Tetracycline Capsules, *Med. J. Malaysia*, 33, 72-75.