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OF NEISSERIA MENINGITIDIS AND NEISSERIA CONORRHEA

Final Report

April 1979

by

Frederic A. Wyle, M. D.

Supported by

US Army Medical Research and Development Command Fort Detrick, Frederick, Maryland 21701

Contract No. DADA 17-72-C-2076

University of California School of Medicine Irvine, California 92664

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SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE (When Date Entered)		
REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE	READ INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE COMPLETING FORM	
T. REPORT NUMBER	3. RECIPIENT'S CATALOG NUMBER	
4. TITLE (and Subtitio)	5. TYPE OF REPORT & PERIOD COVERED	
Immunochemical Investigations of Cell Surface	Final Report	
Ancigens of <u>Meisserie meningitidis</u> and <u>Meisseria</u>	L DEC 17/1 - 20 FED 17/3 6. PERFORMING ORG. REPORT NUMBER	
7. AUTHOR(=)	8. CONTRACT OR GRANT NUMBER(»)	
Frederic A. Wyle, M. D.	DADA 17-72-C-2076	
S. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME AND ADDRESS	16. PROGRAM ELEMENT. PROJECT, TASK AREA & WORK UNIT NUMBERS	
University of California School of Medicine	61102A	
irvine, Galifornia 92004	3A161102B71Q.00.347	
11. CONTROLLING OFFICE NAME AND ADDRESS	12. REPORT DATE	
US Army Medical Research and Development Command	April 1979	
Toto Settion, Frederich, Maryadu 22/VE	5 радея	
14. MONITORING AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS(II different from Controlling Office)	15. SECURITY CLASS. (of this report)	
	UNCLASSIFIED	
	15. DECLASSIFICATION/DOWNGRADING SCHEDULE	
16. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of this Report)	L	
Approved for public release; distribution unlimited		
17. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of the abstract entered in Block 20, If different free Report)		
16. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES		
19. KEY WORDS (Continue on revorce olds if necessary and identify by block number)		
Neisseria gonorhoeae		
Neisseria meningitidis		
Antigens Cell-mediated immunity		
20. ABSTRACT (Castiline as reveres able If necessary and identify by block number)		
Cell surface antigens of N. gonorhoeae and N. meningitidis were isolated and		
purified. Antisera to these antigens were produced in rabbits and used to		
examine their species specificity. The cell mediated immune response in		
dens. It was found that such patients have leukocyte transformation responses		
to both gonococcal and meningiococcal antigens. Responses in female patients		
were found to be much greater than that of male patients		
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FREDERIC A. WYLE, M.D., VICE CHAIRMAN DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE CALIFORNIA COLLEGE OF MEDICINE Please reply to:

CHIEF, MEDICAL SERVICE UCI-LONG BEACH MEDICAL PROGRAM VETERANS ADMINISTRATION MEDICAL CENTER 5901 E. SEVENTH STREET LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90822

April 3, 1979

Contract No.: DADA 17-72-C-2076

Contracting Officer HQDA (SGRD-MD) Research and Development Command Washington, D. C. 20314

California Principal Investigator: Frederic A. Wyle, M.D.

Contractor: Regents of the University of

Dear Sir:

Final Report

The work outlined in this final report falls into three categories: (1) isolation, purification and chemical analysis of cell surface antigens of <u>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</u> and <u>Neisseria meningitidis</u>; (2) determination of the serological specificity of the cell surface antigens of <u>N. gonorrhoeae</u> and <u>N. meningitidis</u>; and (3) investigations into the cellular immune response of patients with uncomplicated gonorrhea to purified cell surface antigens of N. gonorrhoeae and N. meningitidis.

Isolation of <u>N</u>. <u>gonorrhoeae</u> and <u>N</u>. <u>meningitidis</u> cell surface antigens was accomplished via a modification of the Ribi ether extraction technique. Partial purification of crude antigens was effected by ribonuclease and deoxyribonuclease treatment together with gel filtration chromatography. This procedure resulted in a two peak elution pattern which was virtually identical for the gonococcal and meningococcal antigens. Chemical analysis showed composition of the first peak to be primarily protein, while the second peak was largely nucleic acid. These purification steps were performed on numerous gonococcal and meningococcal strains stocked in the laboratory. Comparison of the antigenic structure of the outer membrane for these strains was carried out utilizing sodium dodecyl sulfate polyarylamide gel electrophoresis.

The antigens designated above were utilized to produce antisera in rabbits. The antisera were tested by immunodiffusion, countercurrent immunoelectrophoresis. and indirect hemagglutination techniques. These serological studies revealed extensive cross-reactivity between crude gonococcal and meningococcal antigenic preparations. Partial purification reduced the degree of cross-reactivity detected by the tests.

Peripheral blood lymphocytes (PBL) were isolated from blood samples obtained from patients with uncomplicated gonorrhea at either the Santa Ana Venereal Disease Clinic or the University of Southern California-Los Angeles County Medical Center Venereal Disease Clinic. PBL transformation stimulated by gonococcal and meningococcal antigens were utilized as a measure of cell-mediated immunity (CMI). Both male and female patients exhibited a broad range of blastogenic responses to gonococcal and meningococcal antigens. Control subjects demonstrated significantly lower and more uniform responses.



**Contracting Officer** HQDA (SGRD-MD)

April 3, 1979

As a group, female patients displayed a greater CMI response than male patients. Cross-reactivity between <u>N</u>. <u>gonorrhoeae</u> and <u>N</u>. <u>meningitidis</u> was manifested by PBL transformation in patients with gonorrhea to non-purified menigococcal antigen. Partial purification of the meningococcal antigen by gel chromatography resulted in a reduced CMI response in both male and female patients. Female patients demonstrated marked stimulation with the purified gonococcal antigen, while male patients showed only slight stimulation. This study verified the lymphocyte transformation response in gonococcal infection. The functional role of CMI in gonococcal infection remains uncertain.

Sincerely.

FREDERIC A. WYLE, M.D. Assistant Professor of Medicine

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