Feb. 25, 1952

Dr. Albert Sabin
Children’s Hospital Research Foundation
Cincinnati 29, Ohio

Dear Doctor Sabin:

Dr. Topping’s letter of February 14, addressed to Dr. Muckenfuss, was received in his office while he was away on vacation. His secretary sent the letter to him and I received a note from him this morning asking me if I would send you a summary of the conclusions that we can draw from our studies. Unfortunately, I note that your meeting with Doctors Bell, Burney and Blattner is scheduled for today, so that the summary will reach you too late. However, you have probably seen our paper in the February number of the A.J.P.H., on which the summary is based.

Essentially, our findings were a confirmation of the British results that a definite relationship existed between the sites of injection and paralysis if such injection was received not more than a month prior to onset of poliomyelitis. This was shown in tables 2, 3 and 6. It was true only for injections with diphtheria toxoid, tetanus toxoid and pertussis vaccine, singly or in combination. We were not able to show this relationship in the case of penicillin. Most of the latter injections which were administered within a month preceding onset of poliomyelitis were given in the first week of that month. Indeed, the largest percentage was given in the first few days. It suggested forcibly that the penicillin was administered therapeutically after an onset of polio rather than before. If the injections received in the week preceding onset are omitted, no significant difference is noted between the figures for the first month and for the preceding months.

The second part of the study was limited to the year 1950 and included all children ten years or less of age. An attempt was made to see whether there was a difference in the percentage of children with polio injected in the month before onset as compared with a control group of the same age and sex. The results indicated that a significantly larger percentage of the cases than of the controls were injected in the month before onset of poliomyelitis. The figures are shown in tables 8 and 9.

We were not able, from our data, to draw any conclusions about the relative incidence of polio among injected and non-injected children.

Yours sincerely,

Morris Greenberg, M.D.
Director
Bureau of Preventable Diseases

MG/IMP

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