SCIENCE

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Title: POLIOMYELITIS AS A COMPLEX INFECTION

Comments: The idea that a paralytic infection may occasionally result from the joint activity of two viruses, which by themselves may produce only partial damage, is an interesting one but requires more documentation than is presented in the present communication. Only a single positive experiment with small numbers of animals is presented, and reproducibility was not established. Reference to previous controls is not valid because in the positive experiment both the intracerebral and intramuscular routes were used and the previous "controls" were inoculated only intracerebrally. Beyond the single experiment mentioned, the number of animals used in any of the other tests is not stated. In work of this sort the actual amount of virus inoculated should be indicated. The "80-4" strain of poliovirus is reported by Sabin (J. A. M. A., 1956, 162, 1593) to have moderate paralytogenic activity by spinal inoculation in monkeys and intramuscular injections of large amounts of virus occasionally behave like intraneural inoculations. More work is required to establish the authors' thesis and then it should be published in detail in a communication other than SCIENCE.

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