DDC AVAILABILITY NOTICE

Qualified requestors may obtain copies of this document from DDC.

This publication has been translated from the open literature and is available to the general public. Non-DOD agencies may purchase this publication from the Clearinghouse for Federal Scientific and Technical Information, U. S. Department of Commerce, Springfield, Va.
Histoplasmosis - From Greater Russian Medical Encyclopedia, Volume 7
Moscow, USSR, 1958

Histoplasmosis (Synonyms: Darling's disease, Darling's cytomykosis
Reticuloendothelial cytomykosis) - a fungal disease of man and animals
in the nature of a parasitic reticuloendotheliosis. It was first noted
by Darling in 1906 in the Panama Canal Zone. Darling assumed that the
parasite, which is called H, belonged to the group of protistic
organisms. In 1912 it was established that the stimulus was the
Histoplasma capsulatum fungus. In 1934, W.A. DeMonbreun succeeded
in obtaining a culture of the fungus, reproduced the disease in an
experiment, and provided the morphological character of the stimulus.
The yeast like forms of H. capsulatum are rounded bodies, 1 - 4 microns
in diameter, containing a polymorphochromatin nucleus, basophil pro-
toplasm and a capsule. The parasite develops and multiplies in the
reticuloendothelial cells in the organs of humans and animal organisms.
A reservoir for the infection are animals chronically suffering with
this disease. Infection may originate by an aerial, cutaneous path
or through the digestive tract. Hyperplasia of reticuloendothelial
elements, in whose protoplasm parasites are observed, is observed
microscopically in the organs and tissues. It is characterized by
the absence of signs of suppurative inflammation.

The main symptoms of H. are: cutaneous, cardiac, pulmonary,
intestinal, articular, and neural. Intravital diagnosis is possible
by examining smears of blood and bone marrow, imprints of ulcerations,
minute points of liver and lymph, ganglions, and smears of sputum and
feces. The reaction to increased sensitivity in histoplasm in a
number of cases is positive, which is particularly important in latent
and asymptomatic forms. The incubation period is not known. The disease
can take a sharp, acute, or chronic course. With children, H. gives an
acute picture of disease, and with adults a chronic one. The duration
of the disease is from several weeks to 15 years. In cases of dissemin-
ation of the fungus in the organism, the disease is fatal. Local
forms of H., especially cutaneous affections, are comparatively benign
in spreading, and cases of spontaneous recovery are possible.
Therapy - a symptomatic, general restorative, radiotherapy and local
surgical treatment.

Literature: MURESHAUK, A., The Appearance of Pathologico-Morphological
Changes in Histoplasmosis, Arkh Patol, v 18, #7, p 834, 1956: CHRISTIE,
v. 64, p 147, 1951; PINKERTON, H., Histoplasmosis, Advanc, intern. Med.,
v. 3, p 197, 1949 bibliogr; SHAUL, J.F., Histoplasmosis of Darling, in
the book: Praetition, library of med. a surg., ed. by G. BLUMER, p 208, N.Y. -L. 1941, bibliogr.