

Thygeson's Disease

Submitted to: med-aappos.bu.edu/publicinfo/store5/ThygesonsDisease2.40PM.html by Albert J. LeBreton on 4/8/03. That website is no longer active. I have updated this recital of facts on June 3, 2009.

In my opinion, there IS a sure fire treatment for Thygheson's and it should be investigated.

I am a 75 year old male. At age 8 (in 1942) I contracted superficial punctate keratitis. The disease hit me very shortly after a severe case of measles. My mother was always of the opinion that the disease was connected to my having the measles (a virus!) Anyhow, I was miserable. The photophobia was debilitating. Coupled with the concomitant allergic rhinitis, I was one most unhappy child. I had to wear sunglasses with colored sides on them because any amount of sunlight incapacitated me. In 1943, at age 9, I was diagnosed with superficial punctate keratitis at MacDill Air Force Base. My father was a high ranking officer in the United States Air Force, hence, I was eligible for medical treatment. In 1945, at Lagarde General Hospital (military hospital in New Orleans) my eyes were swabbed with 7% iodine solution on two occasions. The first swabbing was done by doctors holding me down! Very painful with no results. The next swabbing was done under anesthetic (ether.) The swabbing produced no results, other than extreme pain. Allergy tests were run and numerous allergies were detected (household dust, yeast, peas, etc.) In 1951, I was treated at EENT (Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital) in New Orleans using a cortisone acetate suspension that yielded good short term results.

The disease fully returned after about two months and the cortisone acetate was useless. I was referred to Dr. James Allen, head of Ophthalmology, Tulane University School of Medicine. Dr. Allen placed me on Corticloron, which was ineffectual. Next, Dr. Allen prescribed potassium chloride/ethyl alcohol orally. This dilated my pupils for many months but had no other effect. Dr. Allen sent me to Dr. Vincent Derbes, head of the Allergy Department at the medical school and an allergy panel was run. A number of allergies showed up, but nothing overwhelming was found. I moved to Memphis, TN and Dr. Ralph Hamilton, an ophthalmologist in private practice, ran the IDU/Staph immunity series on me. The test revealed no abnormalities.

In 1966-1967, I returned to Tulane University School of Medicine and Drs. Allen and Waller prescribed Prednisone tablets, 25 mg., taken every other day. The stomach cramps it caused were too painful, so that treatment was discontinued. There were no good results from the Prednisone tablets.

In 1966 - 1967, I was still living in Memphis, TN and Dr. Hamilton placed me on Prednisone Acetate eye drops (Pred Mild) - and that helped considerably for a few years. Dr. Hamilton was concerned about serious side effects that could result from the use of Pred Mild but, fortunately, no side effects developed.

In 1978, I moved to Hammond, LA and in approximately 1982, I visited my cousin, ophthalmologist Robert Begg, in Baton Rouge, La. He referred me to the Louisiana State University Eye Center in New Orleans to be treated by the department head, Dr. Kaufmann, and his associate, Dr. McDonald. Dr. Begg told me of a drug from England that Dr. Kaufmann could obtain and that this new drug might be effectual in treating Thygeson's. Drs. Kaufmann and McDonald gave me a thorough examination. Dr Kaufmann ordered "Optichrom" (sodium chromalyn) from Fison's Pharmaceuticals in England. (note: Fison's is no longer in business.) I began using the Optichrom, one drop three times a day. I could tell that it was alleviating the symptoms to some degree, so I arbitrarily increased the dosage. According to the label on the drug, one could not possibly overdose on the Optichrom, so I would daily flood my eyeballs with several drops and let the drug in situ. I did this in the morning and at night. I could feel that the

drug had a very soothing effect – and the photophobia and pain were considerably diminished. Next, I concluded that perhaps I could get some of the drug into my bloodstream via stomach absorption, so I put the Optichrom in my nose and used it as nose drops - a drop or two per day, in addition to the continued use as eye drops. After a couple of months of administering the drops ophthalmologically and nasally, the Thygeson's symptoms disappeared completely. Upon examination by Dr. Kaufmann, no trace of the "blister-like" lesions on the cornea were revealed. Dr. Kaufmann was elated. A cure had been effectuated. I do not know if anything was done to promulgate my cure. From time-to-time, I continued to administer the Fison's product as eye drops (nothing nasally) whenever I felt ocular discomfort. I continued this until about 1989 and have used nothing since then. I consider myself cured of the disease and my routine eye exams by ophthalmologist Dr. McKnight in Pensacola, Florida (where I now reside) reveal no trace of the disease.

I would like to mention that several antagonists triggered a severe flare-up of the symptoms; specifically, fumes from formaldehyde, cigarette and cigar smoke, gasoline fumes and many organic solvents virtually incapacitated me.

I am a chemist by education, and I spent 38 years in scientific instrument sales. I hope that this information will help someone. The agony that this disease causes is horrible and certainly affects one's quality of life. For a child to be subjected to such an accursed disease is pitiful. I lived with it for more than 40 years!

There is nothing more that I can add to this recitation; however, if anyone cares to correspond with me I can be contacted at:

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