

Table 2. Results of treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (estimated percentage of cases)

	Mean average percent
Apparent recovery	5
Improvement shown	60
Condition arrested	19
No improvement shown	16
Total (Base: 4,477)	100

Major changes in treatment from 1949 to 1966

In 1949, *Modern Medicine* attempted to evaluate the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. Results of that survey were compared with those of the 1966 study (Table 3), though the two surveys were not comparable in question form. The 1949 questionnaire listed five specific types of treatment: drugs, vaccines, diet, physiotherapy, and orthopedic procedures. The obvious differences are in relation to medications which were not available in 1949—namely, the adrenal steroid hormones and the nonsteroid anti-inflammatory drugs. The analgesics and combinations accounted for approximately one-third of the treatments in both studies. Gold was used almost twice as frequently in 1949 as in 1966. The large miscellaneous group in 1949 included drugs only. Vaccine was used in 27% of the prescriptions in 1949 but in only 0.9% in 1966.

Table 3. Comparison of drugs prescribed in 1949 and 1966

	1949 Percent	1966 Percent
Analgesics and combinations	32.7	29.7
Adrenal steroid hormones and combinations	—	25.6
Gold	11.5	6.3
Nonsteroid anti-inflammatory drugs	—	31.4
Miscellaneous	55.8	7.0
Total	100.0	100.0