

With respect to both of these symptoms there was a significant difference between the two treatment groups, the p values being 0.027 and 0.015 respectively. A similar difference was not found between the two treatment groups in regard to other complaints referable to the central nervous system, or indeed to any of the other side effects noted in Table III.

It should be noted that four patients whose gastrointestinal symptoms were severe were investigated by means of a barium meal, but in none of these patients was peptic ulceration demonstrated.

Subjective response

The results of subjective evaluation of the response to both drugs are depicted in Fig. 1. It will be seen that significant levels of response were noted with respect to relief of chronic spinal pain and peripheral arthralgia, the actual p values being 0.05 and 0.01, respectively. However, there was no significant difference in the responses of morning stiffness and of acute exacerbations of pain.

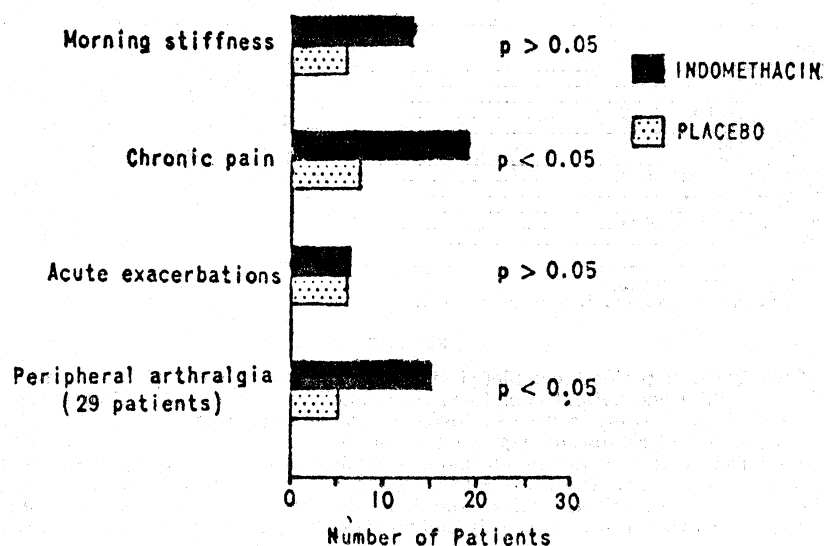


Fig. 1.—Subjective response to therapy in 30 patients with ankylosing spondylitis.

Objective response

Fig. 2 illustrates the results of objective evaluation of both drugs with respect to the cervical and lumbar spines, chest expansion, and sacroiliac and peripheral joints. It can be seen that in none of these parameters was there a significant difference between the two forms of therapy ($p > 0.05$). Two additional findings should also be noted: first, the very small numbers of patients who demonstrated any subsequent variation in the measurements initially recorded; and second, the lack of correlation between the subjective and objective assessment of the peripheral joints.

TABLE IV.—EFFECT OF INDOMETHACIN AND PLACEBO ON LEVEL OF ESR AND ALPHA-2 GLOBULIN

	Number of patients	Decreased to normal by:	
		Indomethacin	Placebo
Elevated ESR.....	25	16 ($p > 0.05$)	2
Elevated alpha-2 globulin.....	26	18 ($p > 0.05$)	3

† Significant at the 0.05 level.