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APPENDIX IX

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AMPICILLIN IN THE TREATMENT OF ACUTE SUPPURATIVE MENINGITIS¹

(By Fred F. Barrett, M.D., Warren A. Eardley, M.D., Martha D. Yow, M.D., and Howard A. Leverett, Houston, Tex.)

During 1963 and 1964 *in vitro* sensitivity studies indicated that ampicillin was effective against the three common etiologic agents of bacterial meningitis in children. Blood and cerebrospinal fluid studies revealed high blood levels and detectable cerebrospinal fluid levels of ampicillin in patients with and without meningeal disease but the mean cerebrospinal fluid/serum ratio was significantly higher in patients with bacterial meningitis. Twenty-eight children with acute bacterial meningitis were treated with ampicillin alone. No significant differences in mortality or complications were noted when the results of this therapy were compared with those in two groups of patients treated with conventional "triple therapy."

Ampicillin, alpha-aminobenzyl penicillin, became available in England in 1961. This semisynthetic penicillin is of particular interest since it is bactericidal against both gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria. Ampicillin has been found to be highly effective *in vitro* against *Diplococcus pneumoniae*, *Neisseria meningitidis*, and *Hemophilus influenzae*, to achieve good blood levels when administered by oral and parenteral routes, and to have a low incidence of side

¹ From the Department of Pediatrics, Baylor University College of Medicine and Ben Taub General Hospital. Address, Department of Pediatrics, Baylor University College of Medicine, Houston, Texas 77025.

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NOTE.—Numbered references at end of article.