

C O P Y

STATE OF ISRAEL

February 8, 1972

CASE HISTORY OF MR. A. S.

There is no special family history and no important previous disease.

He started to work in the vinyl-chloride polymerization plant in February 1969. Except for one month work as polycleaner in April 1969, his job was that of a supervisor, outside the autoclaves.

In August 1971 he first noticed swelling of his face and hands and some weeks later a reddish discoloration of the thickened, edematous skin. Stretching of his fingers and/or dorsal flexion of his hands caused the color of his hands (except for the fingertips) to change to yellow-white. Still later he felt some pain in his fingertips while touching objects.

At the beginning of December 1971 he was sent for radiological examination and the X-ray films of his hands showed changes characteristic of polycleaner disease. There was a broad, band-like area of osteolysis in the terminal phalanges of all fingers of both hands, separating the tufts from the bases of the phalanges. The remains of some tufts were barely visible. There was a solitary small osteolytic lesion in his left clavicle and a widening of the joint space of both sacroiliacal joints with some sclerosis of the articular faces. The other parts of the skeleton, upper gastro-intestinal tract and intravenous Pyelography were normal. D.S.R., C.B.C., liver function tests and all other laboratory examinations were normal.

Skin biopsy from a finger showed allergic vasculitis. The Raynaud-like changes became worse and while under hospital observation the above mentioned color changes and increased sensitivity appeared for the first time after exposure to cold.

For the last two weeks - about three months after he stopped working in the P.V.C. plant - there was some subjective improvement. Control examination of his hands, two months after the first film, showed slight, but definite recalcification of

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the tufts and narrowing of the osteolytic area of the terminal phalanges.

His treatment consisted of steroids some 2½ months ago - before the definite diagnosis was made. Since then he is not taking any medicines.

As there was a similar case in the plant several years ago - then wrongly diagnosed as scleroderma - we intend to publish these two cases in the near future.

The last mentioned case recovered complete with reconstitution of the terminal phalanges.

We shall very much appreciate any comment and advice on the subject.

Sincerely yours,

DR. E. J. HAHN

Dr. E. J. HAHN
Director of X-RAY INSTITUTE
GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL
NAHARIYA

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