

Department of Medicine
University of Cincinnati
Cincinnati, Ohio

US VA Hospital Building 77
Roanoke, Virginia

Gentlemen:

A few years ago, I noticed an article in the Cincinnati Enquirer to the effect that the University was doing research on lead poisoning, and write to you in the hopes that you may be able to help me.

Whilst serving with the Royal Air Force during World War II, I came down with chronic lead-poisoning. I was treated privately by Mr. Geoffrey Carte, FRCS, now deceased, and it is well-nigh impossible to obtain any record from his files. Symptoms at the time were:

Difficulty experienced with pupils of the eyes to contract and expand
Dry throat
Extreme lassitude
A "don't give a damn attitude" about almost everything
Wrist drop
Tendency towards constipation

During the North African Campaign, gastric disturbance was noticed at intervals with symptoms similar to acute lead-poison, but which were construed to be what was termed "Gippy Stomach". (Vomiting, acute diarrhoea, intense griping pain in the abdominal area). Mr. Carte, an eye specialist, was approached because of the effect on the eyes; he attributed it to the effects of chronic lead poison. Treatment was 5 gr. of potassium iodide daily.

I would like to know if, in your research, any clinical tests have been developed which can prove the existence of lead-poisoning in the system? If so, where I could have such tests made, and what the approximate cost would be. In a pinch, I could obtain leave from here and go to Cincinnati for any tests which do not require surgery. On the other hand, there is a very good clinical laboratory here at this hospital, and if any tests were developed, and the information is available, the tests could be made here.

Thanking you for your interest, I remain,

Sincerely yours

Refer to Dr. Robert Kehoe
Kettering Lab

Wayne A. Becker
Wayne A. Becker

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