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## The Effect of Sesame Oil ("T-Factor") on the Platelet Count.\*

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Schiff and Hirschberger<sup>1, 2</sup> have reported that sesame oil, which they call the "T-Factor", administered orally or intramuscularly has the specific effect of raising the platelet levels of normal children or young rats. Balereau<sup>3</sup> could not repeat these results in 6 normal children or in one child with thrombocytopenic purpura.

In an effort to determine the effect of sesame oil on the thrombocyte level, the platelet counts were determined thrice weekly on 6 adult rats for a period of 50 days. Table I gives a summary of these results. Rats Nos. 1 and 2 were kept as controls. Rats 3 and 4 were given 0.1 cc of sesame oil orally for 17 days and rats 5 and 6 were given a similar dosage for a period of 32 days. All of the animals were kept on standard meal mixture diets and maintained their weights throughout the period of observation. Red cell counts and hemoglobin determinations were done at the same time that the platelets were counted. The solution described by Rees and Ecker was used for the platelet counts. There were no significant changes in the platelet levels of the animals. The hemoglobin determinations and the red cell counts did not change significantly during the period of observation.

TABLE I.  
The Effect of Sesame Oil ("T-factor") on the Platelet Counts of 6 Adult Rats.  
Platelet Counts in Thousands.

Day of Exp.	Rat No. 1	No. 2	No. 3	No. 4	No. 5	No. 6
1	796	743	749	702	756	769
17	771	725	755	756	769*	762*
33	791	729	779*	743*	782	786
50	771	743	769	741	764	768

\* Administration of sesame oil begun.

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†It is a pleasure to acknowledge the technical assistance of Miss Hildegard Menzel in this work.

<sup>1</sup> Schiff, E., *Jahr. f. Kinderh.*, 1937, **149**, 81.

<sup>2</sup> Schiff, E., and Hirschberger, C., *Am. J. Dis. Child.*, 1937, **53**, 32.

<sup>3</sup> Balereau, K., *Monatschr. f. Kinderh.*, 1937, **69**, 389.

One adult patient, aged 39 years, with a typical clinical picture of thrombocytopenic purpura was given 15 cc of sesame oil daily for 17 days. At entry to the hospital the platelet count was 18,000 and after treatment, 28,000. This apparent rise was within the limits of error of the method used and was not thought to be significant.

One infant, aged 19 mos, also having thrombocytopenic purpura was given 30 drops of sesame oil orally for 11 days and during this period received 2 small transfusions of blood. The platelet count rose from 12,000 to 74,000. A rise of this magnitude in infants is not unusual in untreated purpura.

In neither the rats nor patients treated with sesame oil did the platelets rise to levels of near or over 1,000,000 as described by Schiff and coworkers.

*Summary.* Oral administration of sesame oil had no effect on the platelet levels of 6 adult rats or 2 patients with thrombocytopenic purpura.

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#### Effect of Thyroid Feeding on Androgen Excretion Following Testosterone and Testosterone Propionate Injections in Rabbits.

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We have been unable to detect any comb growth-promoting substance in the urine of untreated normal adult male rabbits or in the feces of male rabbits even when they were given 10 mg of testosterone or testosterone propionate daily for 4 or 5 days. On the other hand, the above mentioned doses of these androgens regularly lead to the excretion of considerable amounts of androgen in the urine. This result is confirmatory of the observations of McCullagh, *et al.*,<sup>1</sup> Hoskins, *et al.*,<sup>2</sup> Dorfman and Hamilton,<sup>3</sup> and many others, and is at variance with the observations of Kochakian.<sup>4</sup>

In these experiments 5 mg of testosterone or testosterone pro-

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<sup>1</sup> McCullagh, E. P., Rumsey, J. M., and Cuyler, W. K., *Proc. Cent. Soc. Clin. Res.*, 1938, **11**, 18.

<sup>2</sup> Hoskins, W. H., Coffman, J. R., Koch, F. C., and Kenyon, A. T., *Endocrinology*, 1939, **24**, 702.

<sup>3</sup> Dorfman, R. I., and Hamilton, J. B., *J. Clin. Invest.*, 1939, **18**, 67.

<sup>4</sup> Kochakian, C. D., *Endocrinology*, 1939, **24**, 331.