

AN *IN VIVO* PYELONEPHRITIS ASSAY FOR
SCREENING THERAPEUTIC AGENTS

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(Received for publication August 27, 1973)

Eighty to 100% of mice stressed with an intraperitoneal dose of 200~240 mg bromoethylamine hydrobromide (BEA)/kg and infected intravenously 72 hours later with *Proteus mirabilis*, *Pseudomonas*, *Escherichia coli* or *Serratia* host large numbers of bacteria in their kidneys 3~4 days post-infection. If death (probably due to uremic poisoning) does not intervene, the infection lasts for weeks. The therapeutic effects of carbenicillin and ampicillin were tested in this pyelonephritis model. Carbenicillin was effective against *Pseudomonas*; ampicillin had an effect against *P. mirabilis*, but neither carbenicillin nor ampicillin was effective against *Serratia*-induced pyelonephritis.

While many experimental pyelonephritis models have been proposed^{1~20)} they are for technical reasons either most reproducible in the laboratories sponsoring them or are not suitable for routine assay work. The pyelonephritis model proposed in this paper, although based on the old idea of preliminary kidney damage, has the advantages of being technically simple, of having less than a 1% mortality due to preparational causes, of being reproducible in routine evaluations of antibiotics, and can be used in studies for host responses where the kidneys have been damaged by a prior bacterial kidney infection.

The model is based on the observations that 2-bromoethylamine hydrobromide (BEA) causes papillary necrosis of the kidney^{14,21,22,23)}. FUWA¹⁴⁾ found that rats given a subcutaneous injection of BEA developed a localized pathology limited to the inner medulla. MURRAY, *et al.*²²⁾ found that after an intravenous injection of BEA complete necrosis of the rat papilla took place between 4 and 7 days with the dead papilla being sequestered by 21 days. Moreover, HILL, *et al.*²¹⁾ also found that the progressive pathology of the papillary region coincided with a defect in the concentrating ability of the kidney, a rise in serum urea nitrogen, and a tubular atrophy that developed secondarily to the papillary damage. KAYE and ROCHE²⁴⁾ and ROLAND, *et al.*²⁵⁾ demonstrated that kidney infections correlated with decreased urinary concentrating ability. From the above papers it was reasoned that if the mouse kidney was susceptible to BEA damage without a subsequent rise in blood urea nitrogen (BUN) then the kidney might host a bacterial population without depressing the host defenses so that a bacterial invasion of tissues other than the kidney occurs. The data given below show that mice stressed with BEA 3~4 days prior to intravenous infection with different bacterial species results in a strictly localized kidney infection. This infection can persist for many weeks providing a BEA-bacterial induced uremic death does not intervene. It has further been shown that carbenicillin is effective against a *Pseudomonas* kidney infection, that ampicillin has some therapeutic value against a *P. mirabilis* pyelonephritis but that neither antibiotic was effective against a *Serratia*-induced kidney infection.

Materials and Methods

In Vitro Studies. Brain heart infusion broth (BHI) was used for all cultures and diluents. Viable bacterial counts were done on BHI agar with 10% taurocholate for *Proteus mirabilis* (MB 3125) and without taurocholate for *Pseudomonas* strain MB 2836 and *Serratia* strain MB 2887; LEVINE'S EMB agar was used with *Escherichia coli*, MB 2894 and MB 2896. Antibiotic susceptibility tests to determine the minimal inhibitory concentration were done by the standard 2 ml, two-fold dilution assay with a final bacterial concentration of 10^5 cells/ml. The MIC for the organisms and antibiotics used is given in Table 1.

In Vivo Studies. Taconic Farms female mice (14~16 g) were injected intraperitoneally (i.p.) with 200~240 mg/kg of BEA and 72 hours later mice were infected intravenously (i.v.) with an aliquot of a 16~18 hour broth culture. Initial experiments using infection times of day 1 through 7 after BEA treatment showed that infecting at 72 hours post-BEA stress gave the most consistent number of infected kidneys. BEA titrations showed that less than 175 mg/kg resulted in low morbidity while more than 300 mg/kg resulted in excess mortality of infected mice. Uninfected mice were not killed by 350 mg BEA/kg, nor did BEA stressed but non-infected mice develop kidney infections when held throughout the experiments in cages with the BEA-stressed and infected animals.

Viable bacterial population in the blood and kidneys and other tissues was measured as follows: Heart blood was drawn and the mouse was killed by neck dislocation. Liver, spleen and kidneys were excised and homogenized in 10 ml BHI. Bladders were washed with 2 ml BHI broth 2~3 \times and the combined washes were brought to 10 ml and aliquots plated. Blood, homogenates, bladder washes and broth dilutions of these specimens (0.1~0.3 ml) were spread on agar plates. After 48 hours at 37°C the number of colonies on duplicate plates at different dilutions were multiplied by the dilution factor and recorded as the number of bacterial cells/organ or ml of blood.

In general, the lowest measurable bacteria/organ was 100, *i.e.*, kidney/10 ml homogenate and 0.1 ml plated giving no colonies would be <100 cells/kidney. However, if 0.1 ml of the homogenate produced growth in 10 ml of broth the kidney is presumed to contain at least 100 cells/kidney. Blood urea nitrogen (BUN) was determined by Mr. B. LOPEZ-RAMOS using modification of the standard chemical method²⁶¹.

Table 1. MIC of carbenicillin and ampicillin against five bacterial cultures

Organism	MIC in $\mu\text{g/ml}$	
	Carbenicillin	Ampicillin
<i>P. mirabilis</i> 3125	0.4	0.2
<i>Pseudomonas</i> 2836	25	>100
<i>Serratia</i> 2887	50	>100
<i>E. coli</i> 2894	3.0	50
<i>E. coli</i> 2896	6.0	>100

Numbers refer to the Merck stock culture collection.

Results

The rate and extent of a bacterial infection after an intravenous bacterial inoculation in BEA-stressed mice was determined by a bacteriological examination of the blood, kidneys, liver and spleen at different times post-inoculation. Table 2 gives the data from a representative experiment in which *P. mirabilis* was the infecting agent. From the data it is obvious that while at 2 hours post-inoculation both controls and BEA-stressed mice had a similar microbial kidney flora by 6 hours post-inoculation the bacteria in the kidneys of BEA-stressed mice had increased by 2 logs over the number of bacteria found in the kidney of the infected controls. From day +1 post-inoculation onward, the majority of the kidneys of the BEA-stressed group host large microbial populations. This is in contrast to the infected controls where in the

Table 2. Average recovery of *P. mirabilis* from 10 mice at various times after infecting normal and BEA-treated mice with 10^6 cells.

Average number cells per tissue/number of positive tissues in the averaged 10 mice

Post infection	Kidneys		Blood/ml		Liver		Spleen	
	Control	BEA	Control	BEA	Control	BEA	Control	BEA
hrs. +2*	10 ² /5	10 ² /5	380/5	584/5	10 ⁵ /5	10 ⁵ /5	10 ³ /5	10 ⁴ /5
+6	10 ² /6	10 ⁴ /7	30/10	70/9	10 ⁴ /10	10 ⁵ /10	10 ⁴ /10	10 ⁴ /10
days+1	0/0	10 ⁶ /10	6/4	9/7	10 ³ /10	10 ³ /10	10 ² /9	10 ⁴ /10
+2**	20/2	10 ⁶ /7	8/3	7/6	10 ² /8	10 ³ /7	60/4	10 ² /4
+3	10 ⁵ /1	10 ⁷ /9	0/0	0/0	10 ³ /6	10 ³ /6	10 ² /6	20/4
+4	10 ⁷ /1	10 ⁵ /7		0/0	10 ² /3	10 ² /3	10 ² /6	0/0
+5	10 ⁵ /1	10 ⁷ /9		9/1	10 ² /2	10 ³ /6	20/1	40/2
+6	10 ⁴ /1	10 ⁷ /7		0/0	10 ⁴ /1	10 ² /7	10 ⁴ /1	10 ² /2
+7	0/0	10 ⁷ /8		0/0	0/0	10 ³ /2	0/0	0/0
+8	0/0	10 ⁷ /8		0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0

(200~240 mg/kg BEA followed 3 days later with 10^6 bacterial cells i. v.)

* Only 5 mice

** Only 9 mice assayed instead of 10 in BEA treated mice

kidneys of only 10% of the mice was the inoculum able to establish itself and multiply.

In Table 2 it is also evident that neither a bacteremia nor septicemia is the result of a large microbial population in the kidneys of the BEA-stressed animals. It is also evident from Table 2 that while the liver and spleen of these animals contain recoverable *P. mirabilis* organisms the number recoverable is approximately the same in both the BEA-stressed and control groups and relative to the number of bacteria found in the kidneys of BEA-stressed mice is quite small.

Table 3. Bacterial population in kidneys of BEA-stressed mice* at various times after infecting with 4×10^6 cells *E. coli*

Mouse No.	+2 hrs.	+6 hrs.	+1 day	+2 days	+3 days	+4 days	+5 days	+6 days	+7 days	+8 days
1	<100	<100	<100	2×10^4	100	<100	5×10^4	<100	2×10^3	<100
2	150	100	100	10^5	2×10^4	3×10^6	10^5	6×10^6	2×10^4	10^5
3	200	2×10^3	3×10^4	10^5	10^7	7×10^6	10^5	2×10^7	2×10^6	3×10^6
4	200	2×10^3	3×10^4	10^5	10^7	5×10^7	2×10^7	4×10^7	2×10^6	3×10^7
5	600	3×10^3	10^6	10^5	10^7	16^8	6×10^7	7×10^7	6×10^7	3×10^7

Mouse No.	+13 days	+20 days	Mouse No.	+13 days	+20 days	Mouse No.	+13 days	+20 days
1	<100	<100	8	2×10^6	400	15	9×10^6	3×10^7
2	<100	<100	9	3×10^6	10^3	16	10^7	3×10^7
3	<100	<100	10	3×10^6	4×10^4	17	6×10^7	4×10^7
4	<100	<100	11	4×10^6	6×10^5	18	6×10^7	5×10^7
5	<100	<100	12	5×10^6	4×10^6	19	8×10^7	10^6
6	200	<100	13	5×10^6	4×10^6	20	8×10^7	10^8
7	5×10^6	200	14	7×10^6	7×10^6			

* In this experiment, the infected control mice after day +1 were uniformly bacteriological negative as were the blood, liver and spleen of the BEA-stressed and infected mice shown in the table.

Table 3 gives a representative experiment from a series of experiments done with *E. coli* as the infecting agent. Mice not stressed with BEA prior to infecting with 4×10^6 cells are foot-noted in the table since in this particular experiment none of them had detectable *E. coli* in their kidneys. In other experiments, there was an occasional non-BEA-stressed mouse that did have a kidney infection but this was rarely found after day 4. From the data it can be seen that *E. coli*, like *P. mirabilis*, localizes and becomes established in the kidney by 6~48 hours post-infection. Tissues other than kidneys, were examined and were almost uniformly negative after day +1. Hence, bacteriological data for tissues other than the kidneys indicate that with *E. coli* as with *P. mirabilis* the preparatory method of BEA to induce pyelonephritis results in a kidney localized infection. No subsequent septicemia, bacteremia or bacterial invasion of the liver and spleen was found regardless of the number of bacteria recoverable from the kidneys.

Table 4 shows the effect of an increasing *P. mirabilis* inoculum on the mortality at days post-inoculum and on the number of infected kidneys at day 4, 8 and 11 post-inoculum. From the data, it is apparent that deaths occurred only in the BEA-stressed group and that only BEA-stressed mice had consistently high kidney morbidity. While some of the control mice had measurable (100~300 bacteria/kidney) bacteria in their kidneys only two kidneys in the control group (5×10^7 cells on 8th day post-infection) had a bacterial kidney flora (10^6 and 10^8) comparable to that found in the BEA-stressed animals. It can also be seen from Table 2 that with inoculum of 5×10^5 cells mortality was greatest between the 5th and the 8th day, while with

Table 4. Mortality and number of infected kidneys post-infection of *P. mirabilis*

Infection with pre-treated	Number mice dead on day post-infection					
	5×10^5 cells		5×10^6 cells		5×10^7 cells	
	BEA*	—	BEA*	—	BEA*	—
Day+1	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	0	0	15	0
3	2	0	13	0	11	0
4	3	0	10	0	11	0
Death/Total	5/45	0/20	23/50	0/20	37/69	0/26
+Kidneys/Total	14/16***	0/10	13/14	0/10	10/10	0/10
5	0	0	0	0	7	0
6	4	0	0	0	4	0
7	6	0	2	0	2	0
8	4	0	0	0	2	0
Death/Total	14/32	0/15	2/20	0/15	15/27	0/21
+Kidneys/Total	10/14	0/10	18/20	0/10	20/24	3/10**
9	0	0	0	0	—	0
10	0	0	0	0	—	0
11	0	0	1	0	—	0
Death/Total	0/11	0/10	1/8	0/10	—	0/16
+Kidneys/Total	18/22	0/10	9/14	3/10**	—	3/16**

* Mice received 240 mg/kg 3 days before injection of *Proteus mirabilis*.

** $< 10^3$ cells/kidneys (except for 2 mice given 5×10^7 and examined on day +8) in contrast to the BEA-treated mice whose + kidneys contained $> 10^3$ cells/kidney.

*** Right and left kidney examined separately, therefore, a total of 16 kidneys refers to 8 mice, etc.

5×10^6 cells most of the mice died at the 3rd and 4th day post-infection. Hence, decreasing the infecting dose prolonged life without a corresponding decrease in the number of kidneys infected.

Table 5 gives data for individual mice harvested on the 8th day post-infection. In order to facilitate table reading, the data, wherever possible, have been arranged according to the increasing numbers of bacteria found in the kidneys. It is apparent that BEA-treated, infected animals not only have a much higher morbidity rate than infected control animals but the bacterial populations in the kidneys is also considerably higher. It is also apparent from Table 5 that BUN values do not necessarily correlate with the numbers of bacteria found in

Table 5. *P. mirabilis* counts in kidneys and BUN values (8th day post-infection)

Infesting dose	Bacteria in kidneys/ μ g BUN per 100 ml blood							
	BEA treated				Infected controls			
	5×10^6		5×10^7		5×10^6		5×10^7	
Mouse	Kidney	BUN	Kidney	BUN	Kidney	BUN	Kidney	BUN
1	< 100	24	< 100	21	< 100	29	< 100	15
2	2×10^3	21	< 100	24	< 100	26	< 100	18
3	4×10^3	51	3×10^5	26	< 100	24	< 100	16
4	3×10^5	26	4×10^5	26	< 100	23	< 100	22
5	10^8	41	2×10^6	26	< 100	16	< 100	—
6	10^8	25	10^8	49	< 100	26	200	16
7	10^8	17	10^8	140	< 100	30	200	—
8	10^8	16	2×10^8	216	< 100	23	10^3	23
9	10^8	81	2×10^8	192	100	20	2×10^6	21
10	10^8	270	4×10^8	81	300	21	10^8	26
11	—	—	4×10^8	240	—	—	—	—
12	—	—	10^9	190	—	—	—	—

BUN values for uninfected control animals with and without BEA were 18~30 μ g BUN/100 ml blood.

Table 6. *Proteus mirabilis* recovered from moribund mice*

Infesting dose	Number bacteria/organ or ml of blood					μ g/100 ml Blood BUN
	Blood	Liver	Spleen	Bladder**	Kidney	
5×10^7	10	10^3	10^2	—	10^8	140
5×10^7	50	10^4	10^2	—	10^8	216
5×10^7	< 10	< 10^2	< 10^2	< 10	10^8	192
5×10^7	10	10^5	< 10^2	10	10^8	81
5×10^7	190	10^5	10^3	—	10^8	244
5×10^7	20	10^5	10^2	10^5	10^9	190
5×10^6	10	10^6	50	10^5	10^8	270
5×10^5	10	10^6	10^3	10^5	10^8	278
5×10^5	10	< 10^2	< 10^2	—	10^8	187

* The data from non-moribund mice are not included since in all cases < 100 cells were found in liver, spleen or bladder and < 10 cells/ml were found in the blood.

** Bladders were empty and collapsed.

Table 7. The influence of diuresis on morbidity and mortality of a BEA-*Proteus mirabilis** pyelonephritis (Non-BEA-stressed controls were negative)

Kidney	Number cells/right & left kidneys on the 7th day post-infection					
	No diuresis		Diuresis on day -3, -2, -1		Diuresis on day 0, +1, +2	
	Right	Left	Right	Left	Right	Left
Mouse No. 1	< 100	< 100	< 100	< 100	400	10 ³
2	< 100	10 ⁶	< 100	10 ⁴	10 ³	10 ³
3	10 ³	10 ³	< 100	10 ⁶	10 ⁷	10 ⁶
4	10 ⁵	10 ⁴	< 100	10 ⁶	10 ⁷	3 × 10 ⁷
5	10 ⁵	10 ⁸	10 ⁸	10 ⁸	10 ⁸	10 ⁸
6	10 ⁷	10 ⁶	ND	ND	ND	ND
7	10 ⁷	10 ⁸	ND	ND	ND	ND
Deaths/Total	7/22		4/22		5/20	
Positive Kidney/Total	11/14		5/10		10/10	
Kidney	Number cells/both kidneys on days +15					
	Right	Left	Right	Left	Right	Left
Mouse No. 1	< 100		> 10 ³		< 100	
2	< 100		10 ⁶		< 100	
3	10 ³		10 ⁶		10 ⁶	
4	10 ⁵		10 ⁶		10 ⁶	
5	10 ⁶		10 ⁷		10 ⁸	
6	10 ⁸		10 ⁷		10 ⁸	
7	—		10 ⁷		10 ⁸	
8	—		10 ⁸		10 ⁸	
9	—		10 ⁸		10 ⁸	
10	—		10 ⁸		10 ⁸	
Deaths/Total**	2/8		3/13		1/10	
Positive Kidney/Total	4/6		10/10		7/10	

* 2×10^6 *P. mirabilis* cells given i. v. on day 0. Mice were stressed with BEA on day -3.

** Not cumulative, i. e. deaths from day +7 to day +15.

the kidneys, i. e., mice 5 through 10 of the BEA-treated group given 5×10^6 cells all had 10^8 cells/kidneys but the BUN values varied from a normal range of 16~30 to a high level of 80 and 270 μg BUN/100 ml blood. Moreover, two non-BEA-stressed animals (infected controls) had normal BUN values but hosted 2×10^6 and 10^8 cells/kidneys. Hence while the presence of a large bacterial kidney population seems to be a prerequisite for a high BUN value the converse is not true, i. e., a large bacterial kidney population does not *au prior* result in elevated BUN values.

When BUN values and bacteriological studies were done on moribund mice (Table 6) it was found that all BUN values were abnormally elevated and the kidney microbial counts were also high. However, even on moribund mice, some examined at death, most of the animals had relatively few bacteria in their blood and spleen while the number of bacteria found in the liver and bladder was variable and two or more logs less than the number of cells found in the kidneys.

Table 8. Carbenicillin or ampicillin therapy in BEA*-stressed mice infected with *Proteus mirabilis* or *Pseudomonas*

Rx 2 mg/dose** <i>Proteus mirabilis</i>	Bacteria recovered from kidneys on different post infection days								
	Ampicillin			Carbenicillin			Controls		
	Day +5	Day +8	Day+11	Day +5	Day +8	Day+11	Day +5	Day +8	Day+11
Mouse No. 1	< 10 ⁰	< 10 ²	10 ³	10 ⁵	< 10 ²	10 ⁶	< 10 ²	10 ⁸	ND
2	↓	10 ³	10 ⁷	10 ⁷	3 × 10 ³	10 ⁶	10 ⁵	10 ⁸	ND
3		10 ³	10 ⁸	10 ⁸	10 ⁷	10 ⁸	10 ⁶	10 ⁸	ND
4		10 ⁷	10 ⁸	10 ⁸	10 ⁸	10 ⁸	10 ⁸	ND	ND
5	10 ⁶	10 ⁸	10 ⁸	10 ⁹	10 ⁸	10 ⁸	10 ⁸	ND	ND
Deaths***/Total	0/28	3/23	5/15	2/28	6/21	5/10	12/28	5/11	3/3
<i>Pseudomonas</i>	Day +4	Day +9	Day+15	Day +4	Day +9	Day+15	Day +4	Day +9	Day+15
Mouse No. 1	< 10 ²	< 10 ²	< 10 ²	< 10 ²	< 10 ²	< 10 ²	10 ⁴	< 10 ²	10 ⁷
2	10 ⁴	< 10 ²	↓	10 ³	↓	↓	10 ⁶	10 ³	10 ⁷
3	10 ⁵	10 ⁵	↓	10 ⁷	↓	↓	10 ⁶	10 ⁷	ND
4	10 ⁶	10 ⁸	10 ⁷	10 ⁸	↓	↓	10 ⁸	10 ⁷	ND
5	10 ⁶	10 ⁸	10 ⁸	10 ⁸	10 ⁷	↓	10 ⁸	10 ⁸	ND
Deaths/Totals	6/28	6/17	1/6	3/28	5/20	1/10	12/28	4/11	0/2

* Non-BEA-stressed mice had 0% mortality and morbidity.

** Rx given to all mice at 0 and 24 hours post infection plus one hour prior to harvest.

*** Deaths not cumulative *i.e.*, day 0 to +5 and +5 to +8 and +8 to +15.Table 9. Carbenicillin and ampicillin therapy in mice infected with 5 × 10⁶ cells *Serratia*

Rx 2 mg/dose* Mice pre-stressed	Cells/kidneys on days 4 and 8 post infection					
	Carbenicillin		Ampicillin		Controls	
	BEA	—	BEA	—	BEA	—
Day +4 No. 1	< 10 ²	< 10 ²	< 10 ²	< 10 ²	< 10 ²	< 10 ²
2	< 10 ²	< 10 ²	10 ⁷	< 10 ²	< 10 ²	< 10 ²
3	10 ⁷	< 10 ²	10 ⁸	10 ²	10 ⁷	< 10 ²
4	10 ⁸	< 10 ²	> 10 ⁸	10 ²	10 ⁸	10 ²
5	> 10 ⁸	10 ³	> 10 ⁸	10 ³	> 10 ⁸	10 ⁵
Death/Total	3/30	0/30	7/30	0/30	3/30	1/30
Day +8 No. 1	< 10 ²	< 10 ²	< 10 ²	< 10 ²	< 10 ²	< 10 ²
2	10 ⁷	< 10 ²	10 ⁵	↓	10 ⁷	↓
3	10 ⁷	< 10 ²	10 ⁷	↓	10 ⁷	↓
4	10 ⁷	10 ⁶	10 ⁷	↓	10 ⁸	↓
5	10 ⁷	10 ⁷	10 ⁸	↓	10 ⁸	↓
6	10 ⁷	ND	10 ⁸	↓	10 ⁸	↓
7	10 ⁸	↓	10 ⁸	ND	10 ⁸	ND
8	10 ⁸	↓	10 ⁸	↓	10 ⁸	↓
9	10 ⁸	↓	10 ⁸	↓	10 ⁸	↓
10	10 ⁸	↓	10 ⁸	↓	10 ⁸	↓
Death/Total	4/22	0/25	3/18	0/25	0/22	0/24

* Rx at 0 and day +1 and +7.

Since deaths are correlated with elevated BUN values plus large bacterial populations in the kidneys but not with bacterial counts in blood, liver, spleen or bladder or kidneys it is assumed that deaths were due to uremic poisoning.

A number of investigators found that diuresis influences the percent morbidity of infected kidneys in a wide variety of pyelonephritis models and infections^{1,12-16,27-29}. FUWA¹⁴ has also shown that diuresis influences the kidney pathology of BEA. Hence, diuresis *via* 5% glucose in the drinking water for three consecutive days was started the day prior to BEA treatment, the day of BEA treatment, the day prior to infection and on the day of the infection. These different regimens put the mice under diuretic conditions during BEA stress and during the localization and establishment of a *P. mirabilis* kidney infection. Table 7 is a representative experiment showing the effect of diuresis on morbidity and mortality in the pyelonephritis model described. Diuresis did not change the bacteriologically negative nature of infected control or BEA control mice and therefore this negative data is only noted in Table 7. From the table it can be seen that diuresis given during BEA stress (day -3, -2, -1) appears to decrease morbidity if number of positive kidneys are scored on day +7. However, even though individual kidneys were not harvested on day +15, the fact that all the mice in this group had bacteriologically positive kidneys indicates that diuresis during preparative stage may increase the time lag for establishing a kidney infection but does not prevent the development of pyelonephritis. From the data it would appear that diuresis given at other times has little effect on the infectivity of the kidney with *P. mirabilis*.

An experiment in which carbenicillin and ampicillin were tested for efficacy in BEA-stressed mice infected with *P. mirabilis* at 10^6 cells and *Pseudomonas* at 2×10^6 cells is shown in Table 8. Both antibiotics decreased mortality from both infections. However, while ampicillin appeared efficacious in prolonging the time required to establish a pyelonephritis when *P. mirabilis* was the infecting agent, the antibiotic failed to eliminate the infecting agent. In contrast, carbenicillin appears capable of eliminating an established *Pseudomonas* infection.

Table 9 gives data from an experiment with a *Serratia* infection in BEA-stressed and non-stressed mice. It is obvious that BEA-stressed animals more readily develop a localized kidney infection after intravenous inoculation with *Serratia* than do non-BEA-stressed animals and that neither carbenicillin nor ampicillin had a therapeutic effect.

Discussion

The normal resistance of the kidneys to bacterial invasion is decreased by a single injection of BEA thus providing a simple laboratory model for studying kidney infections. The data given above show that the model produces consistent kidney infections with a variety of gram-negative organisms. Moreover, the model proposed does not cause a generalized bacterial invasion of other tissues, nor are the deaths which occur due specifically to the number of infecting units populating the kidney (Tables 5 and 6). The deaths appear to result from a uremia perhaps caused by endotoxin when *E. coli*²¹ is the infecting agent and/or magnesium phosphate calculi when the urease-positive organism, *P. mirabilis* is the infecting agent.

Data presented on the recovery of *P. mirabilis* at various times post-infection (Table 2) show that approximately the same number of inoculated cells lodge in the kidneys of non-stressed mice as in the kidneys of BEA-stressed animals. Hence, any renal pathology from BEA has not resulted in sequestration of the bacteria by the kidneys. However, bacteria that lodge in the kidneys of BEA-stressed mice obviously find the milieu conducive for multiplication since after

six hours, 70% of the mice show a 100-fold increase in numbers of bacteria in their kidneys. In contrast, the bacteria that lodge in kidneys of non-stressed animals do not increase in numbers.

The time recovery studies also indicate that the host resists invasion by the infective agent. This is shown (Table 2) by the reduction in kidney bacterial counts at day 3 and by the ability of the host to prevent the bacterial population from continually increasing in numbers (note day 5, 6, 7 and 8 of Table 2). If the bacterial invader, through its metabolism and/or bacterial products, does not cause irreversible kidney damage, so that uremia and death intervenes, the host can eventually clear its kidneys of the infecting agent (Table 3). However, the host's defense against an established bacterial population in the kidneys is either of a low order of magnitude or slow to develop since 5×10^5 infecting units cause maximum deaths three to five days after the kidney population is maximum. In non-BEA-stressed infection "takes" are spotty and of low frequency, but interestingly, may appear some time after an intravenous infection (Table 4). This is especially true in *P. mirabilis* and *Pseudomonas* infections.

From the fact that mortality is decreased (Tables 4 and 5) prior to host sterilization of the kidney, it can be deduced that the host inactivated the inimical toxic products of the invader prior to eliminating the invader. The work of MONTGOMERIE, *et al.*³⁰⁾ suggests immune responses could be operating against the endotoxins involved.

The pyelonephritis model proposed would permit the study of a kidney damaged by a severe bacterial infection that has been host eliminated and hence, many of the suggested latent complications of pyelonephritis could be investigated.

The controversy over whether or not diuresis increases infection "takes" or decreases them seems to depend on the infecting organisms plus operative procedures used. Table 7 shows that in this kidney infection model diuresis given during BEA-induced pathology (days -3, -2, -1 prior to infection) tends to decrease the rate of kidney infections, if kidneys are examined individually on day +7. This apparently agrees with FUWA'S¹⁴⁾ observation that diuresis decreases renal pathology caused by BEA. However, if this same group is examined on day +15 all of the mice were found to harbor bacteria in their kidneys. Hence in this model, diuresis increased the latent period of infectivity but did not prevent the development of pyelonephritis.

In order to determine the *in vivo* assay value for this kidney model, the antibiotics, carbenicillin and ampicillin (suggested by the work of a number of investigators^{15,31,32,33,34)}) were tested. The results indicated that in both *P. mirabilis* and *Pseudomonas* infections both antibiotics had a therapeutic effect. Ampicillin appears to be more effective in *P. mirabilis* infections while carbenicillin appears more efficacious in *Pseudomonas* infections. It was interesting that carbenicillin appears able to eradicate an established infection while ampicillin appears to have more of a restraining effect on the multiplication *in vivo*. Experiments to establish whether or not the bacteria have become resistant to ampicillin have not yet been done nor have the kidneys been examined for L-forms. The latter may be found in those kidneys cleared of the bacteria by carbenicillin.

BEA initiates a renal pathology conducive to a bacterial infection. This model should be practical for the investigation of therapy directed towards eradicating infections that invade the kidney parenchyma and for investigating the complications that are frequently a latent effect of pyelonephritis.

Acknowledgment

The excellent technical assistance of Mrs. MARY ALICE PARSONS is gratefully acknowledged.

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