

What Has Happened to the Mauve Factor

In 1957, under Dr. A. Hoffer's direction, a substance was found in schizophrenic urine called mauve factor. This was first reported in 1961 by Irvine and by Hoffer and Mahon.

These findings were ignored for many years while biochemists chased after pink factor, another chemical. The debate over pink factor still rages, but when Irvine in 1969-1970 found out that mauve factor is a substance called Kryptopyrrole, the battle was over. This substance is found mostly in schizophrenics and in learning and behavioral disorders in children.

Recently, Dr. Carl Pfeiffer and his colleagues reported on the specific treatment of pyroluria (for patients excreting more than 20 ug of kryptopyrrole (hereafter KP). Hoffer and Osmond had suggested that the syndrome be called malvaria since at that time its structure was unknown. Pyroluria is a better term.

According to Dr. Pfeiffer, pyroluric patients suffer many perceptual changes, fail to remember dreams, and have the following somatic changes: (1) white spots in the nails, (2) a sweetish breath odor, and (3) left upper abdominal pain.

KP combines with vitamin B6 and zinc to produce symptoms of B6 and zinc deficiency. The specific treatment therefore must be Pyridoxine (vitamin B6) up to 3 grams per day, and zinc supplementation. If medication is discontinued there is a rapid return of serious symptoms within 48 hours.

The quantitative measure for KP is simple and can be run by any good laboratory. The procedure is available to biochemists and physicians from Dr.

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Princeton, New Jersey 08540.