

duphalac[®] in lactulose liver failure

Duphalac (lactulose) is now well established as a valuable agent in the treatment of portal-systemic encephalopathy. A recent review in Gut describes its role in these terms.*

"Lactulose is a useful addition to the existing treatment of cirrhotic patients with neuropsychiatric disorders. Most patients respond particularly those with mild and relatively stable symptoms; such patients may receive lactulose indefinitely, and enjoy improved tolerance of dietary protein . . .
. . . lactulose is free from significant side effects, and therefore falls into place as a valuable alternative to antibiotics when prolonged therapy is required". *Gut, 1970, 11: 1043-1048

The following work on Duphalac in portal systemic encephalopathy has been published:

Treatment of chronic portal-systemic encephalopathy with lactulose *Lancet*, 1966, 1: 890-892

Portal-systemic encephalopathy treated with lactulose (letter) *Lancet*, 1966, 2: 281

Treatment of hepatic system encephalopathy with lactulose *Medical Journal of Australia*, 1968, 2: 160-163

Treatment of portacaval encephalopathy by lactulose *Presse medicale*, 1968, 76: 1675-1676

Cirrhosis, hyperammonaemia and lactulose *Tijdschrift voor Gastro-Enterologie*, 1968, 11: 123-139

Lactulose in the treatment of chronic portal-systemic encephalopathy: a double-blind clinical trial *New England Journal of Medicine*, 1969, 281: 408-412

Long-term treatment of portal-systemic encephalopathy with lactulose *Australasian Annals of Medicine*, 1969, 18: 117-123

Die Behandlungen des chronischen Coma hepaticum mit Laktulose
Therapeutische Umschau und medizinische Bibliographie, 1969, 26: 275-277

Lactulose treatment of chronic hepatportal encephalopathy: a clinical and electroencephalographic study
Acta medica Scandinavica, 1970, 187: 337-346

The value of EEG frequency analysis in hepatic encephalopathy
J. Ryl. Coll. Surg. Edinb., 1970, 15: 151-157

Some observations on the effects of treatment with lactulose on patients with chronic hepatic encephalopathy
Quarterly Journal of Medicine, 1970, 39: 245-263

A controlled clinical trial of lactulose in hepatic encephalopathy
Gastroenterology, 1970, 59: 827-832

Duphalac syrup is supplied in bottles of 200 ml and 2 litres. It contains lactulose 50% w/w, galactose 8% w/w and lactose 5% w/w.

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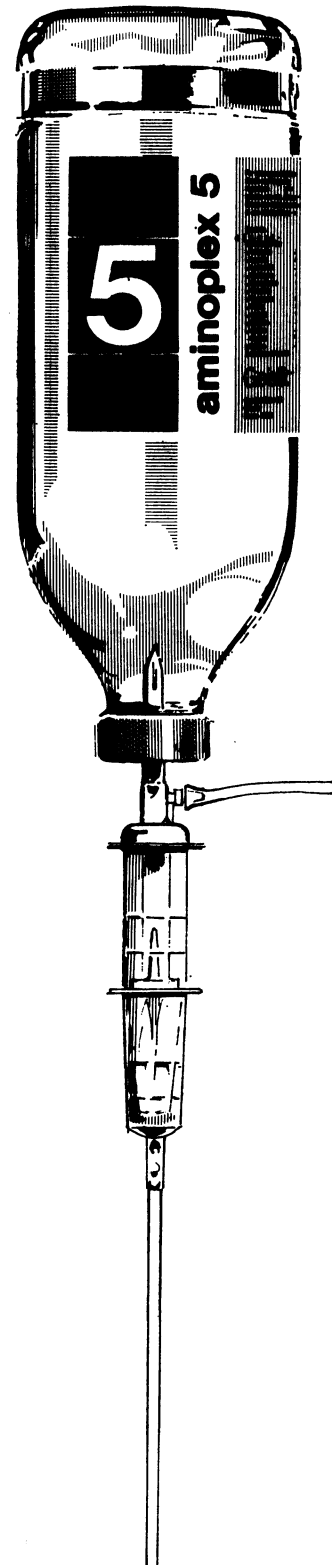
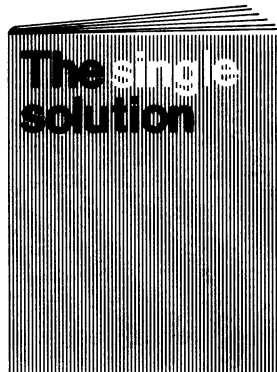
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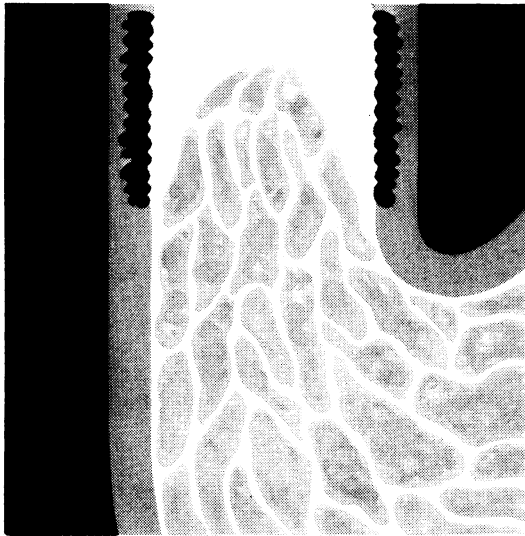
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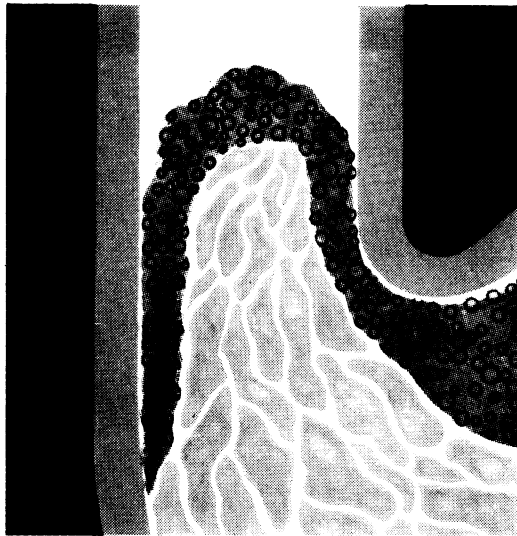
GASTRIC REFLUX



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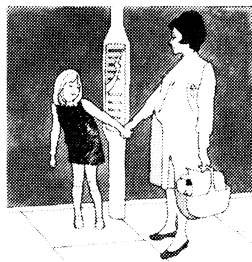
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 *Current Medical Research and Opinion, (1972) 1, 63.

† Further information available on request from: Reckitt & Colman Pharmaceutical Division, Hull HU8 7DS. Telephone 0482 26151

CAVED-S TABLETS

SOME TRIAL SUMMARIES

GUT 1968-9 48-51

SUMMARY

In a double blind clinical trial in which 54 patients* were included, the effect of deglycyrrhizinated liquorice was investigated. Duodenal ulcer cases showed marked symptomatic improvement, with radiological healing demonstrable in a few cases.

*48 Duodenal ulcer patients: 6 gastric ulcer patients.

Further confirmation of the activity of the drug was obtained from the treatment of six cases of gastric ulcer all of which showed extensive healing. Radiology demonstrated that the effect of the drug was spasmolytic in all duodenal ulcer patients, and that the side-effects were minimal. The great advantage of the treatment is that patients can be treated as ambulant and with a minimum loss of work.

GUT 1971-72 449-451

SUMMARY

In our study no significant differences were found between the placebo and the treated groups.

The differences between the reported results are not easy to explain. Crossover trials in patients with duodenal ulcer are not easy to evaluate. In particular, it is not clear how after one month of reportedly successful therapy with complete relief of symptoms another drug (placebo) can be evaluated using clinical criteria. Even if the placebo is used first, the attack may be expected to subside within a month in part of the group.

In view of the conflicting reports more studies will have to be performed before a therapeutic effect can be attributed to deglycyrrhizinated liquorice in patients with duodenal ulcer.

It is not clear whether our results reflect on the efficacy of liquorice extract after the removal of carbenoxolone or merely on its efficacy in duodenal as contrasted to gastric ulcer. In common with others we found no side effects attributable to treatment with deglycyrrhizinated liquorice.

GUT 10 299-302 1969

SUMMARY

In a double-blind clinical trial of deglycyrrhizinated liquorice 16 patients with gastric ulcer received the active drug for four weeks in a dose of 760 mg thrice daily and 17 the placebo. All patients, except four from each group who remained ambulant, were treated as outpatients. The results of the trial were assessed by the change in the size of the ulcer crater on barium meal before and after treatment.

Of the patients given the active drug, on average the size of the ulcer niche was reduced by 78%; in six patients (44%) the crater disappeared radiologically. In contrast the average reduction in size of the ulcer niche of the placebo group was 34% and in only one (6%) did the ulcer disappear. The difference in the reduction in ulcer size in favour of the treated group compared with the control group is statistically significant ($P < 0.001$). None of the patients developed oedema and there was no excessive weight gain.

A pilot trial using Caved-(S) in a dose containing 760 mg of deglycyrrhizinated liquorice thrice daily for one month showed no toxic effects on fluid and electrolyte balance in 10 patients.

Protective Action of Deglycyrrhizinated Liquorice on the Occurrence of Stomach Ulcers in Pylorus-Ligated Rats. *Scand. J. Gastroent.*, 6, 683-686.

The effect of graded doses of a deglycyrrhizinated liquorice extract (d.Li.) was studied on the frequency of stomach ulcers and the secretion of gastric juice in pylorus-ligated rats. 25-50 mg of d.Li. given intraperitoneally reduced considerably the number of ulcers in comparison with the control group of rats without any significant changes in gastric secretion. Higher doses—100-200 mg—gave complete protection against the development of gastric ulcers and also reduced the output of gastric juice. The results give strong support for the existence of an ulcer-protecting principle in the d.Li.

Key-words: Gastric secretion; gastric ulcers; liquorice; pylorus-ligated rats.

Dept. of Pharmacology, Karolinska institutet, S-104 01 Stockholm 60, Sweden.

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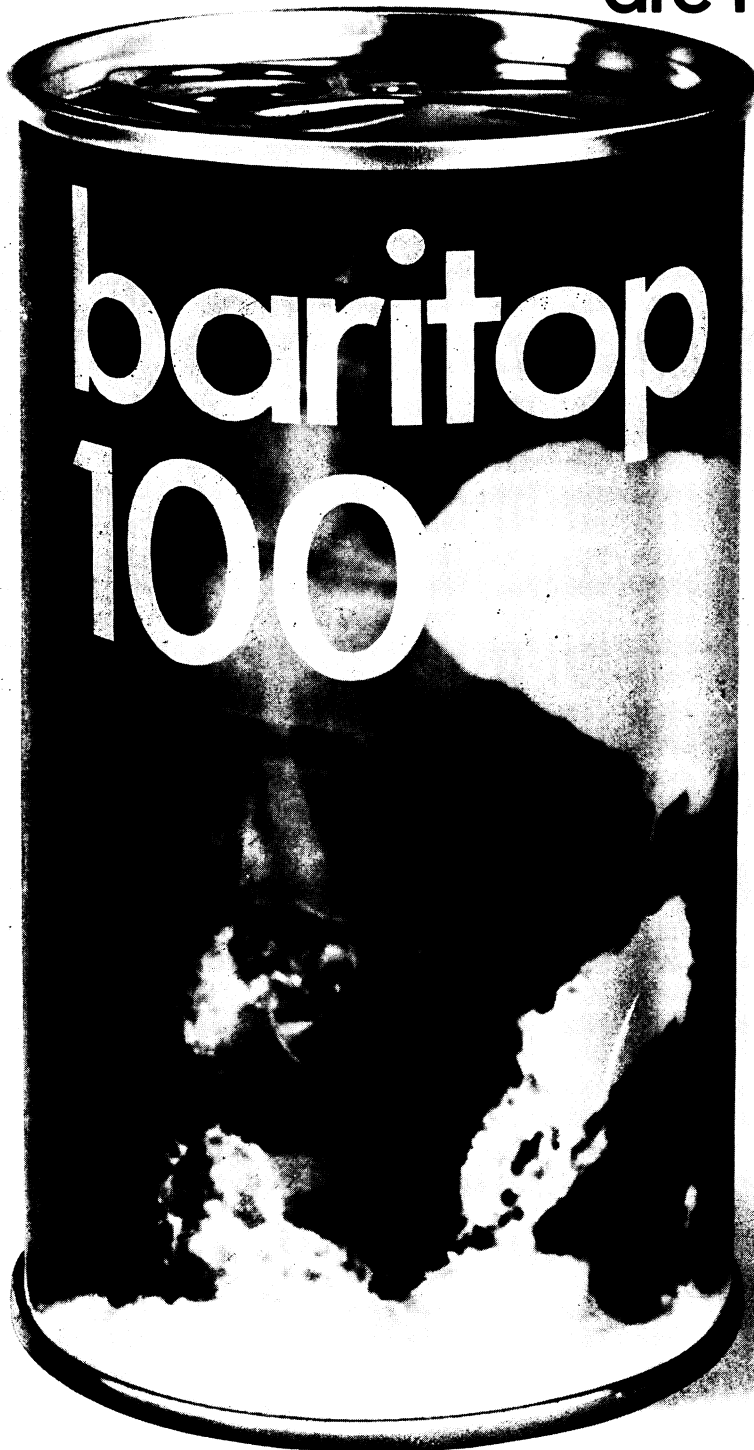


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Fascinating findings which shed new light on the disease process and provoke re-appraisal of current therapies. *Gut, 1971, 12, 599-603

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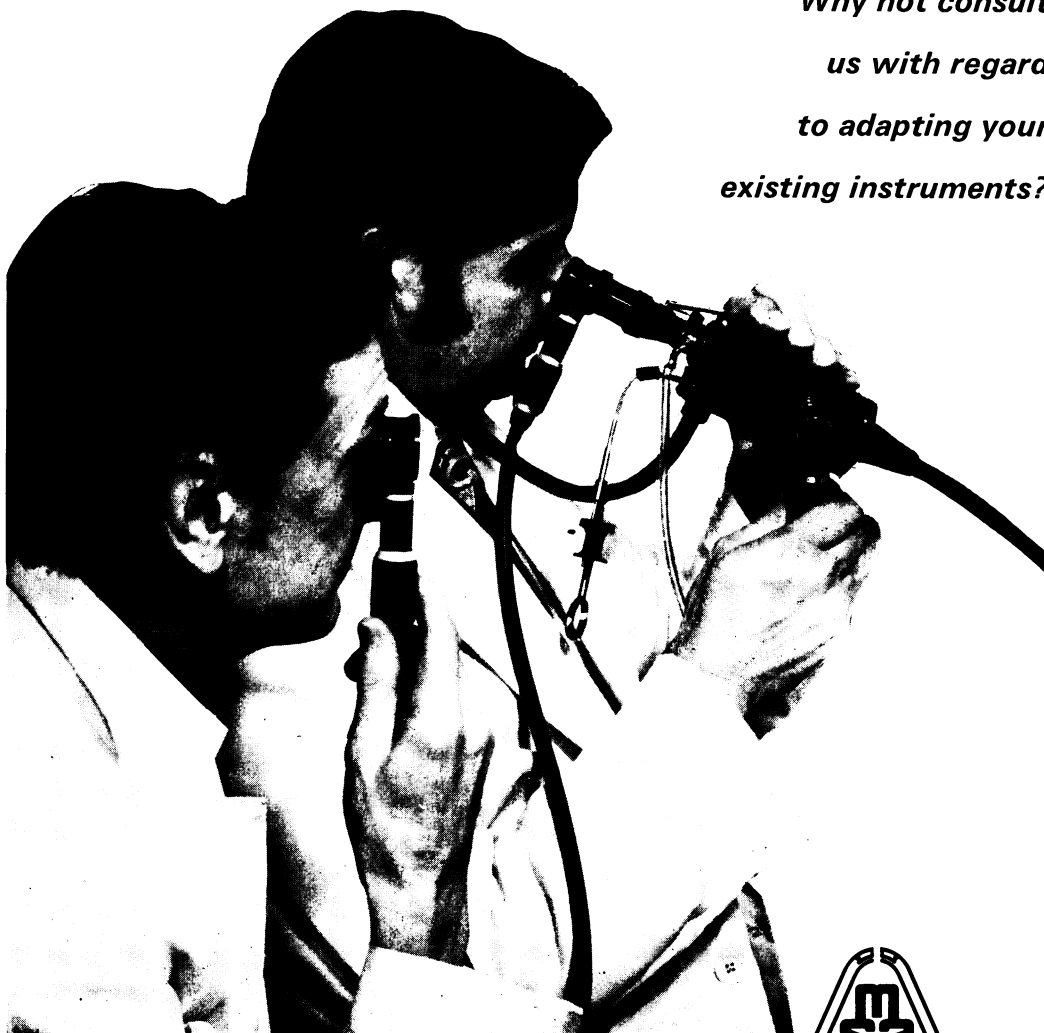
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Organe de la Société belge de Gastro-entérologie

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