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USE OF BRILLIANT GREEN AS AN ANTISEPTIC IN THE USSR

Meditsinskiy Rabotnik Vol XVII, No 28 (1252)
Moscow, 6 Apr 1954

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The Pharmacological Committee of the Scientific Medical Council of the Ministry of Public Health, Ukrainian USSR, has recommended for general use a new antiseptic liquid. For 2 year, this liquid has been successfully used at enterprises of the machine building, metallurgical, and textile industries, as well as in many mines.

The antiseptic liquid is a green-colored colloidal mass, which has an odor of ether. It evaporates easily and is inflammable. It should be kept in vessels provided with ground-glass stoppers or rubber stoppers.

To prepare the antiseptic liquid, two parts of brilliant green are ground in a mortar, together with two parts of 96% alcohol. Next is added five parts of castor oil, ten parts of tannin, and 200 parts of collodion. All this is thoroughly mixed together. One hundred grams of the finished preparation are sufficient for the treatment of 200-250 minor skin injuries.

When the antiseptic preparation is applied, the skin around the injury must be dry. In case the skin is soiled by oily substances, it is necessary to clean the skin with gasoline or a solution of iodine in gasoline. With the aid of a medicine dropper or a glass rod, the liquid antiseptic is applied to the injured skin portion and the surface which surrounds the injury. After 1 1/2-2 minutes, a dense, elastic film is formed on the skin, which protects the injury.

If the wound bleeds, it is necessary to cover it with a small piece of absorbent cotton or gauze prior to application of the liquid.

If the liquid is applied to the palm of the hand or to the finger, the hand and fingers must be fully extended. If the liquid is applied to the back surface of the hand, the hand and fingers must be fully bent -- in other words, pressed together into a fist. This is necessary to prevent extension of the skin after the mass has dried.

If cracks have formed in the film, it is necessary to repeat the application of liquid. The protective film is strong: it is retained on the skin for no less than 4-5 days.

The liquid is applied in cases of surface injuries of small extent -- in other words abrasions, scratches, and bruises accompanied by subcutaneous or cutaneous hemorrhages. The antiseptic impermeable dressing can not be applied in cases of wounds which are accompanied by a profuse hemorrhages, in the case of extensive or contaminated wounds, whenever there is a suspicion of contamination which may result in the formation of pus, and whenever the area around the site of the injury is painful, swollen, or inflamed.

The treatment with antiseptic liquid may be successfully carried out by fieldshers of public health stations and by well-trained "sanitary deputies" [medical aides?].

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