
Letters to the Editor

'M' Pattern Temperature in Resistant Typhoid Fever

The temperature pattern in typhoid fever is typically described as stepladder unremitting type which increases over several days of time. However, a very characteristic fever pattern of the shape of letter 'M' was observed in 76 cases of culture proved enteric fever during this and last summer. Most of the strains were resistant to chloramphenicol and ampicillin. The earlier peak was followed by a typical depression in

temperature at mid afternoon followed by another peak of same degree at late noon. Initially, it was thought to be due to paracetamol which was being given whenever temperature rises. However, it was observed even without the use of paracetamol. Considering the resistant nature of this disease, an association of malaria was also kept in mind but all turned out negative on microscopy and antimalarials failed to suppress the temperature. However, most of the cases responded to ceftazidime or gentamicin or ciprofloxacin.

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