

days prior to significant elevation in serum creatinine(2). Sequential estimation of these products in the urine are useful in monitoring and predicting nephrotoxicity.

A. Bagga,
Department of Pediatrics,
All India Institute of Medical Sciences,
New Delhi 110 029.

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BCG Test in Diagnosis of Tuberculosis

Velhal *et al.* in their study(1) stated that Tuberculin test is more specific than BCG test, even though BCG test is more sensitive. I wish to make it clear that inspite of several authors in India showing that BCG test is more sensitive than TT, none has bothered to evaluate specificity of this test. However, each author makes a statement that BCG test is less specific.

It is important to realize that in a disease like tuberculosis whose prevalence and incidence is high in the country, any diagnostic test has to be much more specific than sensitive. I, therefore, consider that advocates of BCG test must first define specificity of this test before they consider its utility in the diagnosis of active

tuberculosis. Nobody doubts higher sensitivity of BCG test; but that is not what we should be looking for.

Y.K. Amdekar,
Honorary Pediatrician,
J.J. Hospital and
Jaslok Hospital,
Bombay.

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Reply

In the present study, we have been able to prove the sensitivity as well as specificity of BCG test among proved cases of childhood tuberculosis. However, no attempt was made to define only specificity of the test among the children who were proved to be absolutely free from tuberculosis infection as well as disease.

I agree to his comment that in a disease like tuberculosis, whose incidence and prevalence is very high, specificity of a test carries importance over sensitivity. We would also like to undertake a study to define only specificity among non-sensitized children.

G.D. Velhal,
B/7 Aasavari
Co-operative Housing Society,
Ghan Shyam Gupte Road,
Vishnu Nagar,
Dombivli (West),
Thane District 421 202.