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## Acute Rheumatic Fever in Nome

During April and early May, 1974, four cases of acute rheumatic fever occurred in Nome. Two of the cases were considered to be recurrent attacks of rheumatic fever and two were considered to be primary.

An epidemiologic investigation was conducted to determine the number of cases of pharyngitis occurring during the months of March through May, 1974. In addition, 100 students from the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grades; 132 from the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grades; and 29 King Island residents (in Nome for summer months) were cultured to determine the prevalence of Group A Beta Hemolytic Strep. The investigation revealed an increased number of pharyngitis among school children in late March and early April. However, at the time of the investigation only 14% of the cultures taken were positive for Group A Beta Hemolytic Strep. The 14% prevalence rate was considered about normal for any community in Alaska this time of year and did not justify the institution of mass penicillin prophylaxis.

At the conclusion of the investigation recommendations were made to establish a surveillance system to detect future outbreaks of streptococcal disease in the community.

## Staphylococcal Infection - Anchorage

In the past six week period, eleven cases of staphylococcal infection occurred in an Anchorage hospital newborn nursery. Nine cases manifested pyoderma, two cases were septic and all eleven cases recovered. Intensive investigation of the problem, as well as phage typing of all staphylococcal isolates, revealed most of the cases occurring from one phage type and nasal carriers of the same phage type were located in the newborn nursery and the delivery room.

Control measures consisted of the following:

1. Institution of 3% hexachlorophene baths for all newborns except premature infants;
2. Strict hand washing practices between handling of infants;
3. As much as possible, infants are separated from one another;
4. The two carriers observed strict masking at all times;
5. Frequent bacteriologic cultures were taken to detect colonized infants prior to clinical illness.

Control measures appear to have been adequate, with no new cases noted within the past two weeks.