

# **INTRODUCTION**

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Rhinoscleroma is a disease which is considered to be endemic in few areas of the world, Egypt is one of these areas. The prevalence of rhinoscleroma in Egypt acts always as a stimulus for further investigations in this field with trials of different types of treatment. The more one deals with cases of scleroma the more one is convinced that its problem is not finally solved, much controversy has arisen as regarding its aetiology, diagnosis and treatment, difficulties in its diagnosis may arise when similar cases have not been seen before or during its early stages or when there is another associated disease like syphilis, leprosy, or tuberculosis, primary laryngoscleroma and tracheoscleroma are the most difficult cases to diagnose, microscopic examination of the diseased tissue should be done to confirm clinical diagnosis before starting treatment of the case. Serological tests used in the diagnosis of scleroma are of doubtful value, agglutination and intra cutaneous allergic tests gave constant results in the hands of some investigators, while many others declared them useless.

In the treatment of scleroma many surgical procedures have been tried and various drugs have been advocated, streptomycin appears to be the most effective and most

commonly used drug, however many cases do not respond to that drug and recurrence after clinical cure is common, moreover streptomycin is well known to have ototoxic as well as nephrotoxic side effects, radiotherapy either alone or in combination with streptomycin has been advocated with only partial success. It appears that there is no single line of treatment is capable of solving the problem, the disease is well known by its resistance to any form of treatment, symptoms may reappear a long period after treatment and apparent cure, either at the original site or in another sites, all therapies applied have succeeded only in restricting the activity of the disease.

This present work is a study of scleroma with attempts to explore methods of early diagnosis of the disease using complement fixation, agglutination and allergic intradermal tests, standardization of treatment is attempted in this work by evaluating the response of B. rhinocleromatis both in vitro and in vivo to some antibiotics which are effective against gram negative bacilli, and trying to define the place of radiotherapy in management of the disease.

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