INTRODUCTION

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Chronic bronchitis is one of the most frequent intractable problems in chest diseases. It causes disability , economic hardship and loss of productivity in industry . In Cairo, chronic bronchitis comprises 13 % of the patients attending private chest clinics (Sami et al.,1962).

Bacterial infection is a definite aetiological factor in chronic phase and during acute exacerbations of chronic bronchitis (Calder et al.,1968). The rate of decline of patient with chronic bronchitis correlates well with the number,duration and severity of his acute exacerbations (Mitchell,1974). Therefore all concerned bacterial infections must be treated promptly and vigorously.

A wide range of antibacterial drugs is now available for the respiratory infections. The efficacy of these drugs in chronic bronchitis has been compared in large number of clinical trials.

Trimethoprim and sulphamethoxazole (Septrin) is a synergistic,bactericidal combination of high effect in vitro against most of the pathogenic organisms associated with bronchial infections(Garrod,1969). Studies have shown response in bronchial infestations perhaps superior to those given by comparable doses of tetracyclin (Lal & Bhalla,1969)

or Ampicillin (Hughes(1969).

Recently, sulphametrol-trimethoprim (Lidaprim-Ciba) has been introduced as an oral antibacterial agent with a broad spectrum of activity. It bears a close resemblance to "Septrin" in its mode of action and activity. The solubility of sulphametrol and its cheif metabolite N_4 - acetyl sulphametrol is significantly better than that of sulphamethoxazole and its corresponding metabolite. Consequently, Lidaprim has the advantage of being less liable to provoke crystalluria.

The aim of this work is to study the efficacy and tolerability of this drug "Lidaprim" in purulent exacerbation of chronic bronchitis in comparison to "Septrin" as they belong to the same pharmacologic categorie.

The clinical, bacteriological and functional responses of patients who received 'Lidaprim' and those of patients who received 'Septrin' will be analysed. The tolerability to 'Lidaprim' as well as to 'Septrin' will be noticed. At the end, the results will be comparatively analysed and evaluated in a trial to achieve the aim of the study.