

XIV- SUMMARY.

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There has been considerable interest in understanding the immune function of the spleen particularly in disease process, (Bilharzial hepato-splenomegaly). This interest stems from the observation of over-whelming sepsis in splenectomized patients which has relative age specificity and is most frequent in infants and young children.

For this purpose twenty-five patients with bilharzial hepatosplenomegaly have been studied before and after splenectomy from the haematological, immunological points of view.

A review of literature was presented including anatomy of the spleen, Histophysiology of the spleen, Bilharzial liver cirrhosis, pathology of portal hypertension, hypersplenism, plasma proteins, immunoglobulins, the immune response, autoimmunity and disease, effects of splenectomy.

A haematological and seriological and immunological studies included the peripheral blood picture, B lymphocyte count using the florescent microscope, erythrocyte sedimentation rate, plasma proteins, immunoglobulin levels using special immuno-diffusion plates.