

Ayres, claims that ozæna is due to a specific micro-organism, and that it is contagious.

From the nasal discharge of patients suffering from ozæna he isolated a new, and heretofore unknown, organism, which he calls the "cocco-bacillus fætidus ozenæ." As its name implies, it is a cocco-bacillus, non-motile, negative to Gram, aerobic or facultative anaerobic, grows well at ordinary temperature on all media, does not liquify gelatine, nor coagulate milk, and emits a pronounced special and typical foul odour from the various cultures.

In fifty cases of rhinitis of different kinds, the cocco-bacillus fætidus was found only in the cases of ozæna.

Rabbits that were inoculated with the culture speedily developed a profuse, purulent, hæmorrhagic nasal discharge, from which the characteristic cocco-bacillus was obtained. Moreover, a later examination showed a complete atrophy of the anterior turbinates.

In support of the contagiousness of ozæna, the author cited his clinical experience. In ninety-three cases he found the infection came from some member of the patient's own family, and in thirty-five cases from some person outside his own family. The contagion is not virulent like measles or scarlatina, but is slow and difficult, requiring a prolonged and intimate contact, such as would occur among the members of a family. The infection is transmitted by nasal discharges, sputum, caresses, and the interchange of pocket handkerchiefs.

As the result of extensive bacteriological experiments and researches among different species of animals, it was found that the dog was the normal host of the "cocco-bacillus fætidus ozenæ."

With those facts in mind, Dr. Perez formulated the following rules for prophylaxis:—

1. The prevention of the cohabitation of dogs and people, especially children;
2. The avoidance of prolonged and intimate contact of healthy individuals with those suffering from ozæna;
3. The disinfection of patients' handkerchiefs, toilet and table articles;
4. The use of paper handkerchiefs that could be burnt after once used.

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