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Cardiac and Muscular Lesions in Mice and Rabbits Injected with Group A Streptococcal Products¹

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It had been previously shown that lesions characterized by myofiber necrosis and a granulomatous response were induced in rabbits following the intra-myocardial injection of various microorganisms [4, 9]. Since group A streptococcal infections in humans are often accompanied by distinct tissue alterations, studies on the role of cellular and extracellular products in cell injury have been undertaken by various investigators [1, 7, 10, 14, 15]. In the present report lesions induced in mice and rabbits following the intramuscular and intramyocardial injection of extracellular and cellular products of group A streptococci are presented.

Material and Methods

Animals

Swiss mice weighing about 20 g and rabbits weighing 2-3 kg were maintained on Purina pellet diet and water *ad libitum*.

Streptococci and Streptococcal Products

1. Group A streptococci type 6 were grown in brain heart infusion broth, harvested from the logarithmic phase of growth, washed a few times with saline and suspensions containing 10^9 streptococci/ml were prepared.

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