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The Use of BCG (Bacille Calmette Guérin) as an Antispermatic Agent: Structural and Hormonal Changes

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The effectiveness of intratesticularly injected bacille Calmette Guérin (BCG) as an antispermatic agent was examined by light microscopy in rats after three, six, ten, twenty, and 56 days and in rabbits 70 days after administration. In rats, the interstitium showed a spot-like infiltration and development of granuloma.

Many tubules degenerated; some of them were invaded by macrophages destroying the remaining elements. After eight weeks, half of the tubules were

devoid of germinal cells. The interstitium was fibrotic or occupied by granuloma. The effects in rabbits were similar to those observed in rats; however, in three cases, a totally granulomatous orchitis had developed. In both species, there were considerable individual differences in response to the agent. In rats injected unilaterally, the contralateral testis was not affected. Plasma testosterone levels seemed to be slightly increased both in rats and rabbits. Plasma FSH levels were decreased in rats. The action of BCG as an antispermatic agent is discussed on the basis of these findings.

Key words: antispermatic agent, BCG, contraception, orchitis, granuloma, testis hormones

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