

Notes on the Treatment of Ulcers in Leprosy Patients with Polybactrin

by the late Dr. P. GLYN GRIFFITHS, M.C., M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.P.,

Liteta Leprosarium, Zambia.

History of 2 patients with large ulcers successfully treated with Polybactrin spray, Cicatrin powder and Cicatrin cream at Liteta Leprosarium, Zambia.

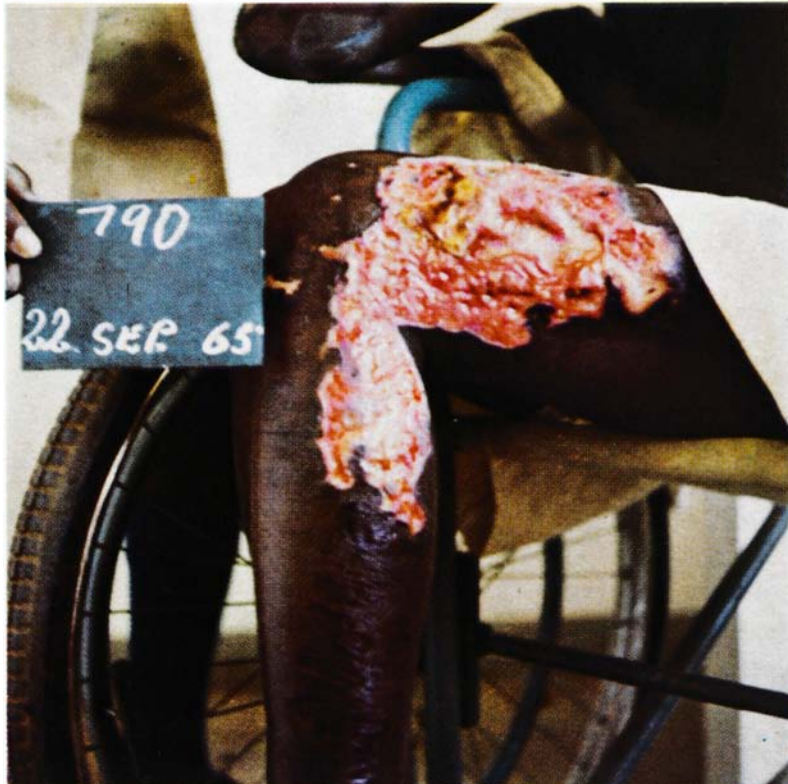
The following 2 patients with large ulcers were successfully treated with Polybactrin spray, Cicatrin powder and Cicatrin cream by Dr. P. G. Griffiths who intended to publish the results of these cases but wanted to treat a few more patients before publishing the results. The author died on 14th May and it has been possible to publish these notes posthumously by the help of Dr. F. Imkamp, Medical Officer in Charge, Liteta Leprosarium.

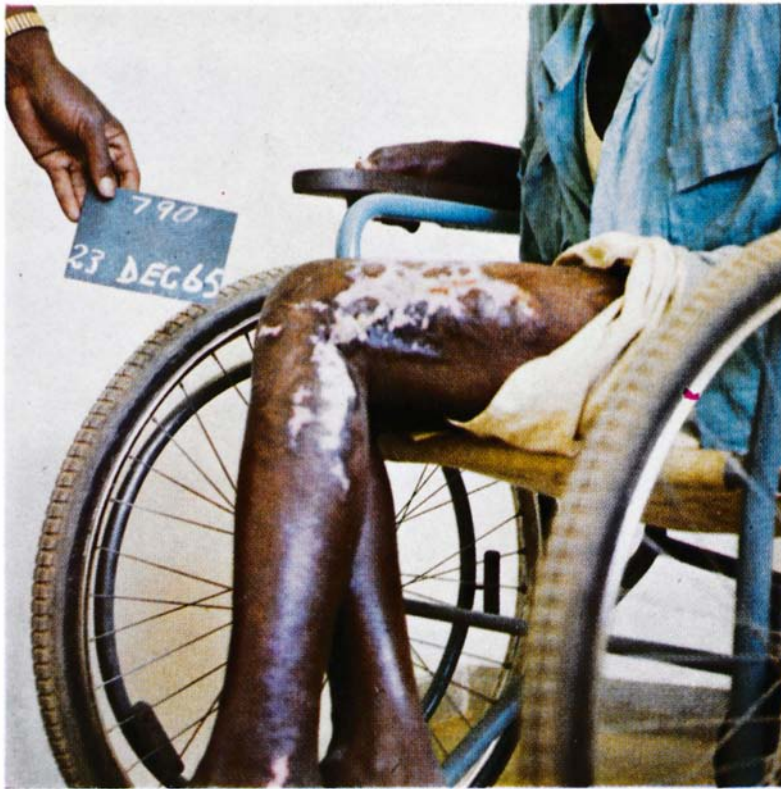
Polybactrin, manufactured in England by Calmic Ltd., Crewe, is an antibiotic powder spray containing bacitracin, neomycin and polymyxin.

Cicatrin is an amino acid antibiotic powder containing per g.:

neomycin sulphate	3.3 mg. base
zinc bacitracin	250 units
L-Cysteine	2 mg.
dl-Threonine	1 mg.
Glycine	10 mg.

NOTES OF PATIENT NO. 1 (*Liteta Patient No 790*)
Was admitted to Liteta on 29.9.56 with lepro-





matous leprosy and discharged to outpatient treatment. He was re-admitted to Liteta on 18.9.65 with a huge, deep sloughing ulcer on his left thigh due to burning. (Photo: 22.9.65.) The ulcer was treated with Polybactrin spray first, followed by vaseline gauze and bandage, but as from 15.10.65 only Polybactrin spray was applied daily covering the entire ulcer and no dressings applied. Photo: 23.12.65 shows the end result and Griffiths' note, "completely healed." The patient was discharged on 12.1.66 and advised to return at once if the ulcer should break down. The patient was seen by Griffiths at Kampumba Clinic on 13.4.66 and Griffiths reported—"ulcer healed".

NOTES OF PATIENT NO 2 (*Liteta Patient No. 105*)
Was admitted to Liteta on 20.10.60 with lepromatous leprosy and discharged on 18.5.65 to outpatient treatment. He was re-admitted to Liteta on 15.7.65 with an enormous ulcer of his right lower leg and right foot. Griffiths'

remarks on 7.9.65: "patient still has a huge ulcer of right lower leg". (Photo: 7.9.65) Treatment was then started with Polybactrin spray followed by Cicatrin cream and bandage applied. 11.9.65 Patient much improved. "There is now a $\frac{1}{2}$ in. x 1 in. diameter healing area all round the ulcer". (Griffiths). 15.10.65 "Ulcer much smaller. Half the original size". (Griffiths)

From now on the ulcer was treated with Polybactrin spray only, bi-weekly and later daily, and no dressings applied. The ulcer was closed at the end of April and the last picture was taken on 9.5.66 by Griffiths when visiting Liteta. Unfortunately his camera was stolen. To complete the case history another photo was taken on 10.6.66. The ulcer is completely healed and the patient is doing full duties as a cleaner at Liteta Leprosarium.

It is not suggested that this method of treatment be used in the proximity of joints where scar contracture would produce disability.



SUMMARY

Under Dr. Glyn Griffiths 2 patients suffering from lepromatous leprosy complicated by ulcers of the thigh and leg were treated with Polybactrin spray, Cicatrin powder and Cicatrin cream (Calmic Ltd., Crewe, England) with very satisfactory healing of the ulcers.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks are due to Mrs. I. M. Griffiths for permission to publish this report, to Dr. M M. Nalumango, Permanent Secretary of Health, for permitting publication, and to Messrs. Calmic Ltd., Crewe, England, for their generous supply of Polybactrin spray, Cicatrin powder and Cicatrid cream.