

TENTION CLUE IN BLOOD

St. Louis Researcher Reports On Elusive Substance

Whether Unidentified Something In High Pressure Cases Is Cause Or Result Still Unknown.

By Rennie Taylor – Associated Press Science Reporter -

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An unidentified substance which may help medical science solve the mystery of high blood pressure was reported today by Dr. Henry A. Schroeder, a St. Louis researcher.

This substance is a little different from several others which have been found to be associated with abnormal tension in the arteries. It is in the blood of persons having high pressure but not in those with normal pressure, said Dr. Schroeder In a paper read to the American chemical Society.

Whether it is a cause of high pressure or simply a result of it is not yet known. It is so elusive, Dr. Schroeder reported, that it can be detected only by indirect means.

At least a half dozen other substances associated with high blood pressure have been found by other researchers. Some of them are known to be able to constrict arteries, influence nerve action or kidney functioning which in turn can cause at least temporary pressure increases. But whether they cause basic high pressure is an unanswered question.

Dr. Schroeder, who does his research at the Washington University school of Medicine, offered this new find as a possible clue to the basic cause. It may take two or more things actually to cause high blood pressure disease, he said.

High blood pressure leads to the death of about 300,000 Americans each year. Until its cause is determined, it can be treated only through efforts to relieve its symptoms.

A CURE STILL ELUSIVE

Blood Pressure Controls Outlined By A Physician

Dr. R. D. Taylor of Cleveland Lists Surgery, Two Types of Injections and Diet as Best Aids.

What the researchers think about high blood pressure at present was wrapped into two 4-part packages here today by Dr. Robert D. Taylor of the Cleveland Clinic.

Animal Experiment First

The laboratory study of high blood pressure got going in earnest in 1934, when Dr. Henry Goldblatt of Los Angeles, formerly of Cleveland, first induced high blood pressure in animals by clamping off part of the arterial supply to the kidneys, Dr. Taylor explained.

This led to proof that an inflamed kidney can cause high blood pressure by putting an oversupply of an enzyme into the blood. Dr. I. H. Page, with whom young Dr. Taylor is an associate in Cleveland, in 1937 added to this study by enclosing the kidney of an experimental animal in silk or cellophane.

But the kidney disorder is only one of these four causes of high blood pressure hypothesized today, and listed by Dr. Taylor. The others are: Nervous system effects. Endocrine gland effects. Disorders originating in the blood vessels.

Varies with Each Person

There may be more causes not yet surmised. And another thing, blood systems vary so much in individuals that one person with cause for high blood pressure will not have it, while another person subject to the causing factor will have a dangerous case. Very complex, Dr. Taylor declared.

There is no known cure for high blood pressure, Dr. Taylor emphasized, but he listed these four modern ways of controlling even severe cases of it:

- Surgery on parts of the nervous system affecting blood vessel tone.

- Injections of animal kidney extracts.

- Injection of extracts of bacteria.

- Diet restrictions, including the rice diet.

Each treatment has been a lifesaver in some cases, deferring or abating the effects of high blood pressure and adding years to life. None is a permanent cure, and Dr. Taylor speculated, the chances are that when a definite specific finally is discovered, none of the present treatments will be used.

He hopes that if and when billions of dollars are launched into a federalized health service, a few million will be allocated to intense search for a specific "cure" for high blood pressure. Such a cure, he pointed out, will cut the expense load on health service by countless millions – because high blood pressure, arthritis, kidney disorders and similar ailments are chronic afflictions especially in persons past 45 years old.