
By Seizo KATSUNUMA, M. D., M. J. A.
Professor of Internal Medicine at the Nagoya University, School of Medicine.
(Comm. May 12, 1948.)

Since Minot and Murphy stated the marked value of the liver-therapy for pernicious anemia, the anti-pernicious-anemia-factor about the other organs has been studied by many investigators but very little has been known about placenta.

Recently we had an opportunity of trying some placenta-preparation on two cases of pernicious anemia. First all I shall state the response to the therapy which is very remarkable:

The first case: — A farmer, aged fifty, showed the typical signs of pernicious anemia but has never had a liver-therapy. After the subcutaneous administration of placenta-preparation was started, all the symptoms disappeared; an appetite increased; there was no longer palpitation of heart nor any more glossitis; the blood picture became quite normal again and neurologic symptoms also diminished.

The second case: — A house-wife, aged sixty-two, has never had a spontaneous remission and has continued to have the liver-therapy for ten years under the direction of our clinic. She could not go about her daily work without taking about two pounds of liver a week. Since she had the placenta-therapy she has been able to do common daily works for more than fifty days without taking any liver.

It is now under our investigation whether or not the effective substance which is contained in the placenta-preparation which I used in this experiment is as good as the effective substance of liver-preparation. According to the results obtained to date, it seems to me that placenta may be substituted for liver so far as the anti-pernicious-anemia-factor is concerned.