

General Notes

CIALIT—WARNING

WE have recently encountered problems with the above solution, a mercurial which is used to preserve bone and cartilage for a number of surgical grafting procedures. These were brought to our attention by a particular solution contaminated with *Pseudomonas fluorescens*.

We would be interested to hear if any Ear Nose and Throat surgeons have experienced problems with Cialit and would be grateful if they could write to us.

We are currently working with the Division of Hospital Infection to try and assess potential defects in current procedures in the preparation and use of Cialit.

We would like to draw attention to the following facts:

1. Hoechst, the distributors, but not the manufacturers, of Cialit in the U.K. do not recommend autoclaving, but ultra filtration in the preparation of Cialit, as the active ingredient is thermolabile.
2. Hoechst also recommended a shelf-life of three months at +4°C in the dark, or eight weeks if kept in the dark at room temperature.
3. Graft insertion in an initial concentration of 1:1000 for twenty-four hours, followed by two weeks in a 1:5000 solution before use, is recommended by some workers (Helms, 1972). The 1:5000 solution should then be changed at six-weekly intervals.
4. Large grafts, such as costal cartilage, should be immersed in saline for twelve hours or more, before use, to abolish implant-bed reactions (McGlynn and Sharpe, 1981).

We would also be interested to see how existing practices are at variance with the above recommendations.

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References

- HELMS, J. (1972) The diffusion of preservatives from preserved tissue. Measurements following preservation with Cialit and Merthiolate. *Helvetica Nordica Orthopaedica*, **20**: 271–273.
- MCGLYNN, M. J. and SHARPE, D. T. (1981) Cialit preserved homograft cartilage in nasal augmentation. A long-term review. *British Journal of Plastic Surgery*, **34**: 53–57.
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Course Fee: Hfl. 500

For information and application forms write: Ms. O. C. von Freytag Drabbe, ENT Department, Free University Hospital, De Boelelaan 1117, 1081 HV Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

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For further information and a registration form, write: Prof. dr. P. van den Broek, University Hospital Sint Radboud, Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Philips van Leydenlaan 15, 6525 EX NIJMEGEN, The Netherlands.

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For further information write: Malcolm D. Graham, M.D.,
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