Rheumatoid Arthritis: The Treatment Controversy

Rheumatoid Arthritis: The Treatment Controversy

*Proceedings of the meeting held at Stratford-on-Avon
9 and 10 March 1984*

Edited by
David Goddard and Robin Butler

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Contents

<i>Foreword</i>	vi
<i>List of participants</i>	vii
Section 1	
The need for disease-modifying drugs	3
D. H. Goddard	
Gold in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis	8
R. C. Butler	
Penicillamine	37
D. L. Scott	
Discussion	56
Section 2	
Systemic corticosteroids in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis	75
M. Byron	
Discussion	87
Section 3	
Immunosuppressive therapy for rheumatoid arthritis	97
C. C. Erhardt	
Discussion	119
Section 4	
Cost versus benefit: a treatment audit	131
T. Price	
Discussion	150
Section 5	
Conclusions	159
H. L. F. Currey	
<i>Index</i>	163

Foreword

At a combined meeting of the Heberden Society and British Association for Rheumatology and Rehabilitation held in September 1982 in Cambridge, the motion 'Remission-inducing drugs are not worthwhile' was debated. Although the motion was defeated overwhelmingly, a sizeable minority voted in favour and many abstained. Thus, despite the fact that remission-inducing drugs are prescribed by rheumatologists every working day, their use remains highly controversial. How, and indeed if, they should be used, and which studies are needed to answer these questions were the subject of a stimulating meeting held by senior registrars in rheumatology together with a panel of senior members of the specialty on 9 and 10 March 1984 at Stratford-on-Avon. The programme was designed to encourage an exchange of views between participants. Introductory papers reviewed existing background information and these were followed by open discussions.

This book contains the proceedings of that meeting. Inevitably many more questions were raised than were answered but definite proposals for future studies were made which, it is hoped, may provide new approaches to the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis.

We would like to thank Dista Products Ltd without whose generous financial support the meeting would not have been possible. Our grateful thanks also go to Medi-Cine Communications International Ltd for their excellent organisation and secretarial help.

DHG and RCB
London
April 1984

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