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INTERNAL MEDICINE

DEPARTMENT OF PULMONARY DISEASE

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November 8, 1967

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Dear Tom:

I was glad to get your letter of November 3, 1967. Interestingly enough, I have just recently been refreshing my memory through a telephone conversation with Joe DeNardi about the same subject; namely, the amount of beryllium that can be assayed in lungs many years after the last exposure. Joe and I have been interested in this for quite a long time, as you indicated, and he especially has done a lot of excellent work in following up on beryllium workers; not only to see how long the deposition of beryllium does occur, but also to show, what he and I have felt for a long time namely, that the presence of a considerable amount of beryllium does not of itself mean berylliosis.

Quite some time ago, Joe obtained autopsies on two ex-beryllium workers twenty years after their last exposure, and who died of other causes. He found a considerable amount of beryllium on assay of their lungs, with normal lung histology. He reminded me recently in our telephone conversation of a man having been found to have 108 micrograms percent of beryllium on a surgical lung biopsy 22 years after his last beryllium exposure, and where the biopsy showed an entirely different condition than berylliosis. He reminded me of another case of also remarkably high content on beryllium assay, this being 69.5 micrograms percent. I am quite sure that all of these assays were done for Joe at Kettering.

Part of our interest in this same subject has been, of course, due to the fact that we have long felt that berylliosis is really a disease of hypersensitivity and that these findings just add further evidence to this thesis.

I do feel that it is best, Tom, that you not take my word for the above exact figures, but rather from Joe himself. I am taking the liberty of forwarding your letter on to Joe and shall ask him to send a separate answer. He will also have a copy of my letter so that he will be able to confirm or disagree with some of my comments. As this work, that you call attention to, has been his baby, I would much prefer his answer to be the proper one to your letter. Joe is the same great team player that he has always been.


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Dr. Thomas Mancuso

November 8, 1967

I must say that I don't know of any published report of answers to your current question. Possibly Joe may. I am sure you will be hearing from him

With best regards,

Sincerely



H. S. VanOrdstrand, M.D.

HSV pay  
cc : Dr. DeNardi