

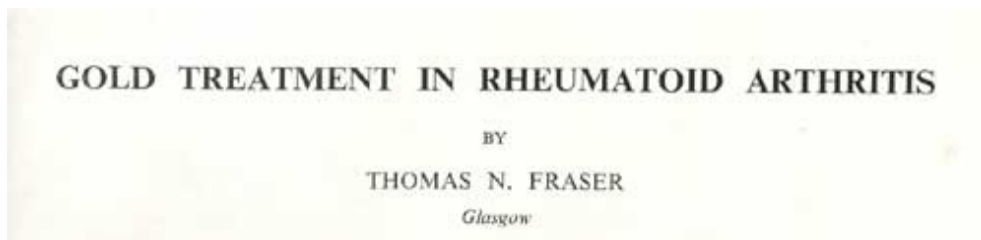
Records

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Fraser TN (1944-45). Gold treatment in rheumatoid arthritis. *Ann. Rheum. Dis.* 4:71-75.

Key passages



Method of Treatment

All the patients, with one exception, had ambulatory treatment, and attended the clinic once a week for observation and injections. In addition, all received some form of physiotherapy, such as heat and massage. Before treatment was begun each patient was given a thorough clinical examination, including joint measurements, full blood count, blood sedimentation rate, blood uric acid, urine analysis, urea clearance, and radiological examination; the findings were charted on special case sheets. The same procedure was adopted at the end of the period of observation—i.e. one year—while during treatment weekly urine analysis, fortnightly white-blood-cell counts, and monthly blood sedimentation tests were carried out. A careful watch was kept for the first signs of intolerance to gold.

As already mentioned, roughly half the patients received myocrisin, an aqueous solution of gold sodium thiomalate containing 50% metallic gold; and half an inactive control substance. The latter contained the same constituents as the myocrisin with the exception of the gold radical, had the same appearance, and was made up in identical ampoules. As previously stated, it was not made known to me which patients had received myocrisin and which the inactive control substance until after I had completed and recorded my final observations on the progress of the disease. Both the myocrisin and the control substance were administered in the same way. Intramuscular injections were given into the buttocks at weekly intervals in the following doses: 1×0.01 , 2×0.02 , 1×0.05 , and 9×0.1 g., giving a total of 1.0 g. in a course. If necessary, after an interval of three months a second course of 1.0 g. was given in the same dosage. As the period of observation was for one year only, it was not possible to give more than two courses of injections. Treatment was suspended temporarily when the milder forms of toxicity appeared, and permanently when the reactions were severe.

