

b) Poor/temporary improvement	26
IV. Interrupted treatment (unfulfilled cure)	83
a) Unsatisfactory result	16
b) Dead (31), suffering from other serious diseases (13)	44
c) Absent for reasons irrelevant to the disease	23
Total	804

He excluded 67 cases in groups IVb and IVc and noted that 695 (94%) of the remaining 737 cases were responding favourably to treatment. He also noted that results as good as his might not be achieved elsewhere because equipment and lamps inferior to those used in his institute had recently been introduced into the market.

In another publication the same year (Finsen 1902b), Finsen observed that some people may have seen some of his investigations as superfluous, since the facts about light treatment for lupus vulgaris were already known. He argued that he had had to do his own studies because he was unable to confirm some previously reported results. By using ultraviolet rays, he avoided burning and scarring the skin without losing the bactericidal effect of the treatments, and he constructed crystal rather than glass lenses.

The following year, upon receiving the Nobel prize for his work, Finsen said "The supreme qualities of all science are honesty, reliability, and sober, healthy criticism".

References

Finsen NR (1896). Om Anvendelse i Medicinen af koncentrerede kemiske Lysstraaler. Kjøbenhavn: Gyldendalske Boghandels Forlag.

Finsen NR (1902a). Om Bekæmpelse af Lupus vulgaris med en Redegørelse for de i Danmark opnaaede Resultater. København: Gyldendalske Boghandels Forlag.

Finsen NR (1902b). Meddelelser fra Finsens medicinske Lysinstitut. IV. København: Gyldendalske Boghandels Forlag.

See also:

Lyngbye J (2003). Lyssagen - Niels Finsen og hans team på Finseninstituttet. København: Gyldendal.

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