

PULMONARY FUNCTION IN PATIENTS WITH PULMONARY DISEASE TREATED WITH ACTH

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THE STRIKING therapeutic effectiveness of ACTH in many diseases, especially those involving granulation tissue and inflammatory reactions, suggested the desirability of evaluating its effects on several types of pulmonary disease. Since this study was initiated a number of other workers have reported the effects of ACTH therapy on pulmonary granulomatosis¹ and other chronic pulmonary diseases.²

The purpose of this report is to present data on pulmonary function as affected by single or multiple courses of ACTH or cortisone therapy in three patients with pulmonary granulomatosis of beryllium workers, in two patients with pulmonary fibrosis (apparently due to talc in one) and in one patient with emphysema due to chronic asthma.³ The diagnosis of beryllium intoxication was made on the basis of history of exposure, typical roentgenographic changes in the lungs, a history of chronic lung disease and the exclusion of other types of lung disease.

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3. Five patients were hospitalized at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, and were studied through the courtesy of Dr. George W. Thorn.