

Immuno-prophylaxis against development of cardiac valvular complications in patients with rheumatic fever: A proposed method

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Rheumatic heart disease (RHD) is a serious medical condition recognized as an immunologically mediated complication of rheumatic fever with an autoimmune component due to molecular mimicry between the bacterial antigens and certain body tissues. In view of the prevalence and seriousness of the disorder, its prophylaxis assumes high significance and serious concern. The current attempts at the prevention of RHD do not appear very prom-

ising and effective. This brief paper postulates an immunomodulated prophylactic measure aimed to decrease the magnitude and intensity of the antigenic stimulation by the beta-hemolyticus group A streptococcus and body tissues which share heterophilic antigenicity between themselves in a hope to minimize heart damage and also prevent or delay the progression of the disease itself.