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Drugs

ASPIRIN AND BLEEDING TIME The technique for a standardized, reproducible Ivy bleeding time is described and used to compare the effects of aspirin and those of a placebo on the bleeding times of 60 normal male subjects. Following 1 g of aspirin orally, the mean bleeding time was 9 min, 30 sec, compared with 5 min, 30 sec after placebo and 5 min in the control state. The difference between the mean bleeding times after placebo and after aspirin was highly significant statistically. The data support the conclusion that small amounts of aspirin may exert significant effects upon hemostasis in normal individuals. (*Mielke, C. H., and others: The Standardized Normal Ivy Bleeding Time and Its Prolongation by Aspirin, Blood* 34: 204 (Aug.) 1969.)

ANTIVENIN FOR PANCREATITIS Acute hemorrhagic pancreatitis was established in dogs by injection of bile under pressure. This is thought to allow pancreatic enzymes to penetrate the interstitium and initiate the pancreatitis. Pancreatic enzymes are closely related chemically and immunologically to those in snake venom. The control animals had 100 per cent mortality in 17 hours. Animals treated with a polyvalent antivenin survived an average of 27 hours, and a quarter of the group survived several days. The mechanism of the protective effect of antivenin has not been established. (*Rittenbury, M., and Hanback, L.: Snake Antivenin, Arch. Surg.* 99: 179 (Aug.) 1969.)