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# American Review of Tuberculosis

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## Effect of Iodine on Tuberculosis

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### Correspondence

#### EFFECT OF IODINE ON TUBERCULOSIS

*In November, 1951, Dr. John R. Mote had occasion to write to approximately twenty students of tuberculosis in this country requesting their opinion on the possible effects of iodine on tuberculosis. Late in the spring of 1952, the collected replies were circulated to the men who had been queried, and the Editor of the REVIEW happened to have the opportunity to see the collection. It occurred to him that the fact that such a distinguished panel of investigators should independently state that there was so little satisfactory information on the subject was in itself information of sufficient value to warrant publication. Accordingly, through the courtesy of Dr. Mote and the individual writers, who have good-naturedly given permission to publish what was, in fact, their private correspondence, the REVIEW is enabled to publish the replies below. The only*

*...ts. These were all made by*

*to the present purpose. It is*

*er constitute an impressive*

*ly of the subject.*

*The Editor*

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AL RESEARCH

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November 22, 1951

NOVEMBER 23, 1951

Dear Dr. Mote:

I do not have the background to express a responsible opinion concerning the effect of iodides in human tuberculosis.

I know of no indication that these substances can stimulate the growth of tubercle bacilli or favor them by any direct action on them. There have been vague reports that iodides may activate the proteolytic enzymes of the plasma and thereby contribute to the liquefaction of fibrin. I do not know of any evidence that this activation of fibrinolysis can have any unfavorable effect in human tuberculosis.

Sincerely yours,  
R. Dubos (Signed)  
René J. Dubos

RJD:j

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HOSPITAL  
54th STREET AND 48th AVENUE SOUTH  
MINNEAPOLIS 17, MINNESOTA

November 23, 1951

IN REPLY REFER TO: 5106-10EE

Dear Dr. Mote,

In reply to your letter of November 20, as to the potential harmfulness of [iodine in tuberculosis], I am unable from personal experience to give you more than clinical impressions, which are to the effect that small quantities of iodides, in the range of the dosage

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"Effect of Iodine on Tuberculosis." *American Review of Tuberculosis*, 66(6), pp. 765-777

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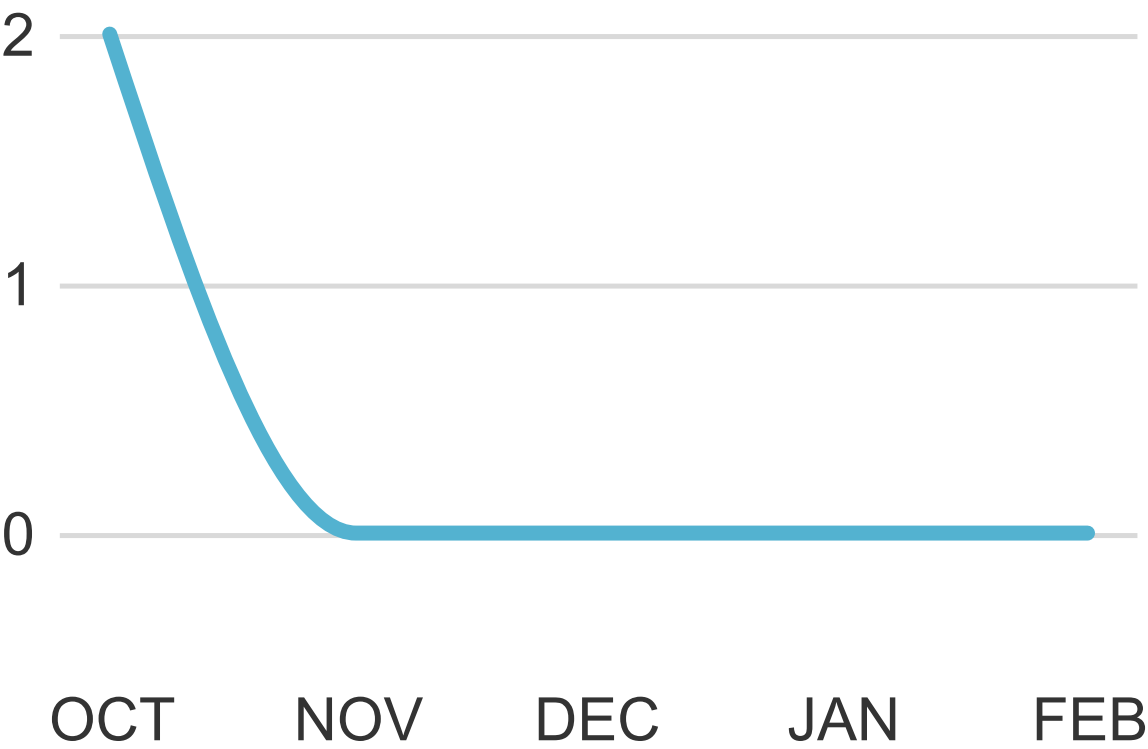
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