

observations emphasize the participation of alternative pathway in DDT and endosulphan-induced activation of the cascade. The involvement of classical pathway was ruled out by estimating CH_{50} levels *in vitro* which serve as an index of complement activation through classical pathway¹⁰. Either of these insecticides did not produce any alteration in CH_{50} levels when incubated with normal human sera. Since these insecticides are likely to gain constant entry in the body through food chain series and other routes and can produce cumulative manifestations, they may play a significant role in many of the pathological situations associated with the antibody independent activation of the complement cascade. Such manifestations may range from immunodeficiency to allergic diseases^{10,11}. Immunosuppressive effects of chlorinated insecticides including DDT and histamine release by DDT have earlier been documented^{12,13}. Chang *et al*¹⁴ reported a reduction in the Fc and complement receptor bearing leukocytes in the patients suffering from polychlorinated biphenyl poisoning. They speculated the low immunity to infection observed in these patients as the outcome of this impairment. The present investigation provides some additional clue to the mode of interaction of DDT and endosulphan with immune system.

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