Seckel Syndrome

Sir,

Although the literature on the ‘Seckel syndrome’ is very sparse, I was not surprised to see that Sauk et al (1973) missed my report (Szalay, 1964) of a patient with the Seckel syndrome. In 1963 and 1964 (Szalay, 1963; 1964), I used the feature of craniofacial disproportion to separate the Seckel and Russell dwarfs from other forms of intrauterine growth retardation (IUGR); I still feel (Szalay, 1972a and b; 1973) that this feature is a useful clinical point in differentiating these dwarfs (Table).

My report (Szalay, 1964) was the second to reveal normal chromosome studies in the Seckel dwarf. However, cytogenetic studies (especially the new banding techniques) are essential in view of the increasing numbers of chromosomal anomalies being found (Table). More recently, acute myeloid leukemia has been reported in a patient with IUGR, microcephalic dwarfism, and a ring 1 chromosome (Bobrow et al, 1973).

I last saw my patient in 1963. A recent inquiry revealed that she was employed in a menial position in a protected environment for some time and has remained mentally retarded, microcephalic, and dwarfed. At the present time, she cannot be located but follow-up attempts are continuing (personal communication, Professor H. Medovy, Winnipeg, Canada).

Yours, etc,
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REFERENCES

TABLE*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form of intrauterine dwarfism</th>
<th>Craniofacial disproportion</th>
<th>Reported chromosomal anomalies†</th>
<th>Clinical features</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seckel</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Ring 1 chromosome</td>
<td>IUGR; microcephaly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Diploid-triploid mosaicam</td>
<td>IUGR; congenital asymmetry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russell</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>47,XY, +18, 46,XY mosaic</td>
<td>IUGR; pseudohydrocephalus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

† See references in Szalay (1973).

Cellular Metachromasia with Toluidine Blue O in Cultured White Cells of Cystic Fibrosis Heterozygotes

Sir,

Studies on cultured leucocytes of cystic fibrosis (CF) patients and heterozygotes (Danes and Beam, 1969; Danes et al, 1969) have confirmed the occurrence in these cells of Toluidine Blue O metachromasia similar to that previously observed in cultured fibroblasts (Danes and Beam, 1968). In some CF patients, however, the cultured white cells remained ametachromatic and a similar absence of metachromasia was noted in leuco-

216