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Progeria

With reference to the recent publication on Progeria(1), the authors state that their's is the third reported case from India. The reference cited by them(2), however, relates to only one earlier case. Secondly, and indeed surprisingly, at least two of the cases of progeria recorded in our noted pediatric Indian journals(3,4) have not been taken into account by the authors.

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Essential Drugs

Fungal infections are a common cause of nosocomial infections. With the improved life support measures, antibiotics, steroids and antimetabolites, the incidence of mycotic infections appears to be increasing. Antifungal sensitivity testing is not yet standardised and has a poor correlation with clinical efficacy. The choice of antifungal agents is therefore, made on the basis of clinical experience(1). Hence despite the recent availability of newer agents, Amphotericin B continues to be the sheet anchor of systemic antifungal therapy.

In our country, Amphotericin B is available only under the brand name of Fungisone(2). Of late, this has not been openly available in the market, causing serious therapeutic and management problems. Enquiries with the manufacturing concern (Sarabhai Chemicals) reveal that the shortfall has arisen as a result of certain problems with the import of the