Letter to the Editor: Serum Salivary and Pancreatic Amylase

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We are grateful to Dr. K. F. McGeeney for calling our attention to his experience that cystic fibrosis patients with pancreatic insufficiency do not exhibit an increase in the salivary amylase contained in their sera. Such an increase would be expected if a compensatory mechanism were in effect as suggested by Davidson *et al.* (1).

We agree with Dr. McGeeney that most techniques presently used for the assessment of the serum content of salivary and pancreatic amylase leave much to be desired with respect to time, efficiency, and accuracy of quantitation. The inherent vagaries of amylase quantitation have long created difficulties in interpretation of observations from different laboratories. Different techniques may be in part responsible for the varying results reported.

It would be of great interest to us to accomplish a comparative

method study of the wheat inhibitor method (2) in comparison with our PAGE slice technique (3) and including perhaps a third technique such as chromatography or a cellulose acetate electrophoretic separation with densitometric evaluation.

REFERENCES AND NOTES

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