Erythrocytic G-6PD Deficiency in Punjabi Sikhs

To the Editor,

A varying prevalence of erythrocytic G-6PD deficiency has been reported in different racial and ethnic groups of the world [5]. Dimson and McMartin [1] found an evidence suggestive of G-6PD deficiency among the Indians as well. Since then a varying incidence of this deficiency amongst different Indian population groups has been reported by various workers (table I). However, the majority of these studies pertain to mixed population groups and, therefore, are not indicative of the true incidence in distinct ethnic groups. These observations also hold true for Punjab, a Northern State of India; and the data regarding the incidence of G-6PD deficiency amongst the Punjabi Sikhs, a distinct endogamous group in the native stock of the Punjab are scanty.

We recently screened venous blood samples from 500 Punjabi Sikhs, 258 females and 242 males, by Brewer's modified met-haemoglobin reduction test for the detection of erythrocytic G-6PD deficiency. 11 of these 500 subjects were found to have this deficiency, giving an overall incidence of 2.2%, while sexwise it was 2.06% in the males and
2.32% in the females. The difference in the incidence between the two sexes was found to be statistically insignificant.

References