The Hemoccult II test can be an important diagnostic tool in the routine physical examination. It helps you screen patients for bleeding gastrointestinal lesions, including asymptomatic colorectal cancer.

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Adriamycin, generically known as doxorubicin, is the most active antitumor product of *Streptomyces peucetius*. Clinically, it is active on carcinoma of the breast, urinary bladder, lung, testis, sarcomas, lymphomas, and leukemia. It is inactive on colorectal and renal carcinoma and on melanoma. Adriamycin has a high degree of toxicity, including myelosuppression, stomatitis, nausea and vomiting, alopecia, and cardiomyopathy. It is also a carcinogen.

Dr. Federico Arcamone and Dr. Aurelio Di Marco of the Farmitalia Research Laboratories of Milan, Italy, isolated and characterized Adriamycin in 1969. This was part of a systematic search for antitumor agents by an industrial company, targeting on finding the best anthracycline produced by *S. peucetius* (P. G. Sammes (ed.), *Topics in Antibiotic Chemistry*, Vol. 2, pp. 89–229. Chichester, U.K.: Ellis Horwood, 1978). It was soon tested clinically by the cooperative groups of the U. S. National Cancer Institute.

Pictured are Dr. Arcamone (left) and Dr. Di Marco (right), the mold of *S. peucetius* (furnished by Professor Arpad Grein of Farmitalia Carlo Erba SpA), and the Farmitalia Research Laboratories in Milan. The chemical structures of daunomycin (1) and its 14-hydroxy derivative are from *Topics in Antibiotic Chemistry*, Vol. 2, p. 242, 1978.

We are indebted to Dr. Arcamone for the information and illustrations.

M.B.S.