

Absorbance of the eluted solution at OD 547nm was considered to be a measure of the amount of slime. The amount of slime produced by 48 strains of *S. epidermidis* (26 strains from young people in their twenties and 22 strains from old people in their fifties), some biochemical characteristics and susceptibilities to antibiotics were studied and their relationship was analyzed statistically. It was shown that the 22 strains from old people produced more slime than the 26 strains from young people. However the difference was not significant ( $p < 0.05$ ). Thirty mannose-utilizing strains produced significantly higher amounts of slime than 18 mannose non-utilizing strains ( $p < 0.05$ ). Among 5 antibiotics tested (PCG, ABPC, SM, CP and FOM), 37 strains resistant to SM produced significantly more slime than 11 sensitive strains.

## **A Study of Factors Related to Independence of Swallowing in Patients with a Cerebrovascular Accident**

Misako HIGASHIJIMA

The purpose of this study was to identify the factors related to the ability to swallow in patients who have had a cerebrovascular accident, in order to determine the prognosis for swallowing and to create an efficient treatment plan. Evaluations were done before and after therapy, which was based on three items of videofluorography and seven items of occupational therapy. The results indicated that the ability to swallow at the time of discharge after therapy was significantly related to problems of the pharyngeal phase, aspiration, and dementia at the beginning of therapy. The results suggest that these three factors are important in determining the prognosis for swallowing and creating an efficient treatment plan.

## **The Vigilance Evaluation for Alzheimer's Disease with the Simple Light Stimulation Method**

Takeshi FUKUI and Keiko INOUE

A suitable method of vigilance evaluation was investigated. The purpose of this study was to examine the adaptation of a simple light stimulation method (SLSM) for Alzheimer's Disease.

We evaluated Alzheimer's Disease patients with the SLSM, repeating numbers, and serial sevens. We compared these results with vigilance evaluation by behavior observation.

Only SLSM showed a significant correlation with the vigilance evaluation by behavior observation.

These results suggest that the SLSM is an effective method of vigilance evaluation for Alzheimer's Disease.