In this preliminary report, I am giving the results of clinical trials in a particular group of disorders conventionally known as hyperesthetic sexual conditions. I have preferred to use the terminology, “syndrome of the irritable phallus”, because it is more descriptive and helps to bring the trouble into clearer focus. I include in this, all such cases, as excessive libido, increased erections and erections on the slightest stimulation or provocation, masturbatory habits, nocturnal emissions – where the fundamental symptom is hyper-irritability of the penis. In all such disorders there is a sustained hypersensitivity of the erection centre with the result that a mere casual touch of a female passer-by or a provocative sight or thought may bring about an erection or even an ejaculation. Though these symptoms might have certain organic causes such as tight phymosis, diseases of the urethra, prostate and seminal vesicles, etc., in this report I have confined myself solely to those cases the etiology of which is clearly an emotional factor, without definite organic lesions of the nervous system or genital organs.

Though physicians are perfectly aware that the passage of the seminal fluid or semen, does not by itself, deplete a person of his vitality, yet in most cases faulty childhood training, accompanied by a guilt complex usually puts such a severe psychological strain on the sufferer that he invariably starts complaining of symptoms which are due to neurocirculatory neurasthenia–symptoms such as dizziness, dry mouth, tremors, sleeplessness, tiredness, mental fatigue, a diminished interest in life and mental depression.

In all, twelve cases have been treated on Serpina therapy. The patients fell into two groups.

Group I: Youthful cases of the idiopathic irritable phallus: All of these were below 25 years of age, were chronic sufferers and had tried several of the conventional lines of treatment before. None of them was suffering from any organic diseases. The blood pressure levels of all were normal.

Group II: This group consisted of cases above the age of 35 with excessive libido and hypertensive diathesis.

**DOSAGE**

Two tablets of SERPINA a day for one month and then the dosage was adjusted according to individual needs.
COMMENTS
All types of treatments – drugs or local – used for this syndrome so far have proved ineffectual because they have failed to attack the exact irritated focus of the central nervous system. Bromides act on the cortex of the brain and if they lessen irritability they also dull sensitivity. Local treatments have a purely local action. As sexual behaviour is closely related to the hypothalamus none of the sedatives without deleterious side-effects known till now were likely to work on this syndrome.

CONCLUSION
Rauwolfia serpentina (Serpina) was tried in 12 cases of “The Irritable Phallus” syndrome with satisfactory results.

The outstanding advantage of the drug appears to be that it depresses the irritability without affecting the sensitivity of the centre and because it is completely free from all serious toxic side-effects it can be administered with perfect safety.