

concern about chromosomal nondysjunction and azospermia in these patients. Zemer reported that with the use of prophylactic colchicine in 350 patients with FMF, there was no effect on the progeny of 11 pregnancies<sup>22</sup>.

## EFFECT OF TREATMENT ON AMYLOIDOSIS

In a recent report of 954 patients on prophylactic colchicine therapy for 4 years or more, Zemer stated that 114 were in various stages of amyloidosis at the onset of therapy while 840 had no proteinuria and presumably were free of amyloidosis<sup>23</sup>. Fifty-four of the latter did not take colchicine for various reasons, and provided an unplanned control group of untreated patients. In the nonamyloid group, proteinuria developed in 13 of 786 compliant patients (1.8%). Among the patients with amyloidosis (114) progression of nephropathy was slowed in those who started colchicine early in its course as compared to untreated patients. The rate of development of amyloidosis in the noncompliant patients was not reported. The authors, however, recommend colchicine therapy for all patients with FMF even in those who have no response as far as their attacks, and those who have amyloidosis, in an effort to block or slow down the progression of amyloidosis<sup>23</sup>.

## CONCLUSION

**FMF is a disease which can occur in the Arabian Peninsula and Bahrain; its recognition and treatment with colchicine will avoid unnecessary surgery.**

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