

## Bone scanning in patients with pleural effusion—Experience in 76 cases

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Seventy-six patients with malignant or benign pleural effusion were studied to determine the incidence of accumulation of  $^{99m}\text{Tc}$ -MDP in relation to effusion, and reveal the mechanism. Of 76 patients, 46 (61%) were found to have diffuse uptake of  $^{99m}\text{Tc}$ -MDP in the hemithorax, with almost the same positive rate in malignant and benign effusions, i.e. 62% and 57%, respectively. Of 46 patients, 32 (70%) showed diffuse, slight accumulation in the hemithorax, and the positive rate had a tendency to be higher with the increase in the effusion volume.

We are convinced that the major mechanism of unilateral intrathoracic accumulation of  $^{99m}\text{Tc}$ -MDP in pleural effusion is a passive transudation.

**Key words:** bone scan, pleural effusion,  $^{99m}\text{Tc}$ -MDP,  $^{67}\text{Ga}$  citrate