

H) Digestive Organs (Liver and Biliary Tract)

A Scintigraphic Study on Differential Diagnosis of Hepatoma and Metastatic Lesions

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On the basis of Au colloid liver scintigraphy performed on 27 patients who had been proven to have hepatoma on post-mortem examinations, the incidence of associated liver cirrhosis was studied, in addition to the incidence of hepatoma in clinical diagnosis in 142 cases identified as cirrhosis on liver scans.

The results were as follows:

Associated liver cirrhosis was detected in 25 patients out of 27, and sex ratio was 25 to 2.

Of 142 cirrhetic patients, 26 were found to be complicated by hepatoma:

Sex ratio of liver cirrhosis in this study was 104 to 38, while that of hepatoma was 23 to 3, similar figures as in the study on the proven cases.

These observations suggest that scattered areas of decreased radioactivity (or defect) on the scintigram may, in most cases, indicate hepatoma as considered from both clinical and pathological order of frequency, and that "defect" without scintigraphic findings indicating liver cirrhosis may not be regarded as hepatoma.

Liver Scintigram of Primary Liver Carcinoma Complicated by Livercirrhosis

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About 1/3 of the livercirrhosis cases are complicated by primary liver carcinoma, while in about 2/3 of the primary liver carcinoma cases there is a complication of livercirrhosis, indicating that there is a close relationship between primary liver carcinoma and livercirrhosis. The liver scintigram of livercirrhosis is in many cases characterized by flying bat type picture and the uptake of RI is not uniform but variable. Therefore, when it is complicated by primary liver carcinoma, it is expected that some cases would be diagnosed as false negative.

During the three-year period from January 1969 to December 1971 a total of 338 autopsies were performed at this hospital, of which there were 41 cases of livercirrhosis. Of these, 13 cases were complicated by primary liver carcinoma, that is by mixed type liver carcinoma in one case, cholangiocarcinoma in one case and hepatoma in the remaining 11 cases. The histological picture of livercirrhosis was almost laennec type. Livercirrhosis without any complication was mostly postnecrotic cirrhosis. The scintigrams of 16 cases of livercirrhosis and 10