

4. Report on Recent Nuclear Medicine Practice in Japan —from Nationwide Survey by Japan Radioisotope Association

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Nationwide survey on the present states of Nuclear Medicine practice in Japan have been performed 3 times in 1982, 1987 and 1992 with 5 years intervals. Questionnaires were sent to all the institutes which perform Nuclear Medicine procedures including about 1,200 facilities all over Japan. Over 94% of the institutes responded.

In 1992 it is estimated that 6,600 *in vivo* procedures including 1,280 SPECT were performed in a day. Among them bone scintigraphy was performed most frequently (24.5%) followed by tumor scintigraphy (14.1%), myocardial scintigraphy (11.9%), brain perfusion scintigraphy (7.5%), thyroid scintigraphy (7.0%) and so on. In the same year 241,000 samples were estimated to be measured with radioassay every day, 84.6% of which were performed in assay laboratories. Most frequently performed assay was CEA (7.3%), followed by IgE-REST (5.7%), CA 19-9

(4.8%), TSH (4.6%), Insulin (4.0%) and so on.

When the 3rd survey in 1992 was compared with the 1st in 1982 and the 2nd in 1987 the following trends were observed.

1) Liver scintigraphy was performed most frequently in 1982 (24% of 6,000 procedures per day) has decreased dramatically in the past 10 years (3.6% in 1992).

2) Myocardial scintigraphy and brain perfusion scintigraphy markedly increased in the past 10 years, 4.2 and 3.4 times as compared with 1982, respectively.

3) Numbers of *in vitro* examinations have increased from 123,000 samples per day in 1982 to 241,000 in 1992 with tumor markers largest in number (24.9%).

This is a cooperative work with the committee of nationwide survey on the present states nuclear medicine practise in JAPAN (Chairman: Prof. Yasuhito Sasaki, Co-chairman: Prof. Atsushi Kubo).