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Extrarenal uptake of Tc-99m-DTPA in a case of retroperitoneal abscess causing spurious data in renal function assessment

Wonsick CHOE

Nuclear Medicine Service, Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center and Department of Radiology, The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, Texas, U.S.A.

The author reports CT of the abdomen and quantitative analysis of renal scintigraphy that was spuriously assessed due to unwanted extrarenal uptake. The patient had a retroperitoneal abscess that was related to fistula from the right kidney. Renal scintigraphy was performed to assess split renal function as a preoperative evaluation for nephrectomy. The computer generated differential function did not appear to coincide with the visual analysis. This discrepancy was believed due to extrarenal uptake from the area of the retroperitoneal abscess.

Key words: renal scintigraphy, split renal function, spurious data, retroperitoneal abscess