Protein-loss into retroperitoneal lymphangioma: Demonstration by lymphoscintigraphy and blood-pool scintigraphy with Tc-99m-human serum albumin

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A rare, benign congenital lymphangioma has been reported to occur frequently in the neck and axilla, but rarely in the retroperitoneal space. We report a case of a retroperitoneal lymphangioma associated with hypoproteinemia caused by protein-loss into the tumor. In this case, lymphoscintigraphy with subcutaneously injected Tc-99m-human serum albumin (HSA) disclosed the communication between the tumor and the lymphatic system, and sequential abdominal scintigraphy with intravenously injected Tc-99m-HSA revealed the protein loss into the tumor. Abdominal scintigraphy with Tc-99m-HSA injected intravenously or subcutaneously is occasionally useful for determining the etiology of hypoproteinemia.

Key words: retroperitoneal lymphangioma, Tc-99m-HSA, lymphoscintigraphy, hypoproteinemia