Gallium-67 scintigraphy in patients with hemochromatosis treated by deferoxamine

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Gallium scintigraphy was performed as an aid for determining the presence or absence of malignant neoplasm in two patients with hemochromatosis treated by deferoxamine. However, gallium scan images could not be obtained. So gallium scintigraphy was performed once more to investigate the cause of low activity. Both patients had heavy urinary excretion of gallium in the first 24 hrs after the injection, and activity was very low on the day of examination. This phenomenon may be attributed to the effect of deferoxamine which is highly bound to the gallium.

Key words: Gallium scintigraphy, Deferoxamine, Hemochromatosis, Urinary excretion