

Detection of bile leakage into the thoracic cavity by hepatobiliary scintigraphy

Mitsuko SUEHIRO, Junji ISHIMURA and Minoru FUKUCHI

Department of Nuclear Medicine, Hyogo College of Medicine, Nishinomiya

We report early detection of bile leakage into the thoracic cavity by hepatobiliary scintigraphy in a rare case of spontaneous withdrawal of the catheter for percutaneous transhepatic cholangiographic drainage (PTCD). An 81-year-old man with inoperable carcinoma of the common bile duct was readmitted with a 38°C fever and suspected bile leakage from the hepatic biliary tree following withdrawal of the catheter for PTCD. While plain X-ray immediately after readmission revealed no abnormality in the chest or abdomen, hepatobiliary scintigraphy revealed not only bile leakage into the right thoracic cavity but also the site of laceration. We conclude that hepatobiliary scintigraphy is a simple, non-invasive procedure useful in the early detection and localization of bile leakage following spontaneous withdrawal of the catheter for PTCD.

Key words: hepatobiliary scintigraphy, Tc-99m PMT, bile leakage into thoracic cavity, spontaneous withdrawal of catheter for PTCD