I. Thyroid and Access. Thyroid

Dynamic Analysis of Thyroid Function Using 99mTc

K. Higuchi, M. D., K. Kumai, M. D., K. Noya, M. D., H. Hasegawa, K. Saito, N. Yoshida
Saitama Chuo Hospital, Urawa, Japan

Dynamic analysis of thyroid function using 99mTc was studied for the purpose of detection of thyroid carcinoma in an early stage. The scintillation camera with pinhole collimator was connected with a small general purpose computer. Thyroid scintillation photo was recorded on magnetic tape every 10 to 20 seconds interval immediately after intra-venous administration of 2 to 3 mc. of 99mTc through cubital vein. By flagging regions of interest, two areas of an equal size in the thyroid were chosen, one including center of nodule, the other, maximal point of uptake within the thyroid. The counts of both areas were continuously printed and their fluctuation was also analysed.

1. Dissociation time: Dissociation of uptake curves of both areas was found after 100 seconds following 99mTc injection in benign solid nodule cases, whereas it was within 40 seconds in benign cystic nodule. However, dissociation of two uptake curves of malignant nodules cases was recorded between 40 and 100 seconds.

   The observation of Dissociation time is adequate in 10 seconds interval record.

2. Consuming time to reach the maximal uptake level of the curve of maximal point area in histologically known 145 cases was measured and analysed.

   In observation record for 18 minutes, out of 18 malignant nodule cases, in which 3 occult carcinomas were included, consuming time of 14 cases were recorded beyond 14 minutes. In 127 cases of non-malignant cases, consuming time of 80 cases were recorded within 13 minutes. Particularly, it was shorter in chronic thyroiditis case. We expect above-mentioned analyses are of an effective screening method for T1 type of thyroid carcinoma and chronic thyroiditis.

Functional Imaging of the Thyroid with 99mTc-Pertechnetate
Appraisal for a Parameter of Initial Slope

*Department of Radiology, Mie University School of Medicine, Tsu, Mie
**Central Clinical Radioisotope Division, Mie University Hospital, Tsu, Mie

Functional imaging of the thyroid using a new parameter “Initial Slope” was investigated. Following intravenous injection of 5 mCi of 99mTc-pertechnetate, sequential data were collected in a mode with 64 × 64 matrix using a gamma camera and an on-line computer (DAP-5000 N). For all the time-activity curves on the 64 × 64 elements initial slope was calculated according to following formula and displayed such that brightness is proportional to calculated values for T 1/2.

\[ T_{1/2} = 3.51/\sum_{t=0.5}^{2} [C_{1t}/(C_{10} - C_{t})] \]

where, \( C_{t} \) represents count rates at \( t \) minutes after injection.

   Constructed functional images showed special regional thyroid function in terms of \( T_{1/2} \) of initial slope. Averaged values for \( T_{1/2} \) in thyroid area, which was automatically printed out, ranged 0.4 to 1.1 minutes in euthyroidism, increasing in hyperthyroidism, decreasing in hypothyroidism. In addition, it showed good responses to \( T_{3} \) suppression and TSH stimulation. There was a good correlation between averaged \( T_{1/2} \) and \( ^{131} \)I uptake (\( r=0.857, P<0.005 \)).