THE PRESENT STATE OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE PRACTICE - A NATION WIDE SURVEY USING ICPM CODE OF WHO (THE FINAL REPORT) - Y. SASAKI (Co-Chairman) and F. Kinoshita (Chairman), committee for the classification of Nuclear Medicine Nomenclature, Japan Isotope Association, Tokyo, Japan

The number of the clinical nuclear medicine procedures (NMP) performed in Japan was surveyed by way of a questionnaire, in that NMP were listed according to the WHO code "International Classification of Procedures in Medicine" (ICPM). The questionnaires were sent to all of 1,197 nuclear medicine facilities all over Japan. The number of each of NMP performed during June 1982, radiopharmaceuticals used and average dose given to a patient were requested items to be informed.

Of 1,197 facilities 982 (82.0%) sent back the questionnaires. These institutes purchased 94.5% of radioisotopes for clinical use sold during that month.

Total in vivo examinations performed were 115,870. Of these most frequently performed procedures was liver scintigram (23.8%) followed by bone (11.1%), thyroid (8.0%), tumor (7.9) imaging and thyroidal iodine uptake test (6.5) in that order. Thirty five percent of the study were performed in private hospital, 30.4% in University hospital, 23.2% governmental (regional) and 11.4% in National Institutions. Regional distribution on the NMP performance was analyzed in relation to the distribution of population.

Total in vitro radioassays performed were 2,444,639 samples, of which 63.5% were done in private laboratories out side the hospitals. The most frequently performed in vitro tests were CEA (11.8%) followed by insulin (9.6%), HBsAg (8.3%), AFP (7.4) and T4 (6.4).

On the basis of these date it is estimated that 1,500,000 in vivo studies per year, that is 6000 a day and 30,750,000 in vitro test per year, that is 123,000 a day are performed in Japan.

The estimation of consumed radionuclides per day are as follows: 6,200 mCi of Tc-99m for 1,450 liver scintigrams, 12,200 mCi of Tc-99m for 680 bone scintigrams, 1,200 mCi of Ga-67 for 460 tumor scan, 18 mCi of I-131 24 mCi of I-123 and 600 mCi of Tc-99m for 510 thyroidal scintigrams, 425 mCi of T1-201 and 290 mCi of Tc-99m for 195 myocardial scintigrams.

The estimated numbers of in vitro tests per day are as follows: 14,000 CEA, 11,800 insulin, 10,300 HBs antigen, 9,000 AFP and 7,800 T4.

The details of the survey is reported in RADIOISOTOPES 32: 454-467, 1983. We would like thank all the institutes that cooperated this survey.

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