REGIONAL LUNG FUNCTION STUDY WITH Xe-133.

During the regional lung function study with Xe-133, sequential image data were collected using a camera-computer-system in a 64×64 matrix form with frame time of 350 msec for 2.5 minutes, while the patient was taking tidal breath through a closed circuit after equilibrium. Each of the cycles of the regional time-activity curve over each of the elements of the matrix was synchronized with the respective cycle of the global time-activity curve over the whole lung field and summed to obtain a representative cycle. A first-harmonic Fourier analysis of the cycle provided functional images displaying distribution of amplitude and phase-shift values. In normal cases phase image showed diffuse distribution, while amplitude image showed marked increase of the value in lower lung fields, supporting the physiological gravity effects. In cases with obstructive lung diseases, phase image showed irregular distribution, sensitively depicting focal phase delay. The analysis of the regional time-activity curve revealed that this phase delay was resulted from prolongation of early expiratory phase. This method was considered to be useful in evaluating regional pulmonary function and providing a sensitive regional information on the respiratory cycle.


Using perfusion lung scintigram, image of the motion of regional pulmonary area and lung edge during ventilation was obtained in patients with various respiratory diseases. Image at maximal inspiration (I) and expiration (E) were recorded after the intravenous injection of Tc-99m MAA (5~10 mCi) using a scintillation camera with a small digital computer. Changes of the radioactivity in each pixel during ventilation were calculated according to a expression as (E-I)/I, and the image of (E-I)/I was obtained.

The image of (E-I)/I was consisted of positive and negative components, and that of positive one visualized the motion of the regional pulmonary area and that of the negative one revealed the limits of the motion of the lung edge during ventilation. Sum of the positive (E-I)/I in the both lungs of the anterior image was correlated with vital capacity (r=0.66) and that of posterior image (r=0.81).

This technique is seemed to be useful for the estimation of the regional pulmonary ventilation and motion of the lung edge.


We investigated local flow volume (F-V) curve of the lungs by means of Xe-133 or Kr-81m inhalation with air or He. Methods: After equilibrium of the Xe-133 or Kr-81m in the lungs, the subjects did forced expiration. Change of activity per second (1/C/t) and activity from TLC to RV(C) were plotted in ordinate and abcissa respectively.

Results:
1) RI slope ratio of the (SR) V30 was well related to SR V30 by means of spirogram.
2) In localized obstructive pulmonary disease, local RI F-V curve detected abnormality in spite of no abnormality on global spiographic F-V curve.
3) In normal cases, value of RI-SR30 He/RI-SR30 air always indicated more than 1.1. In many of COPD patients, it was less than 1.1. Namely, in normal cases, RI-SR responded to He gas, but in COPD patients, RI-SR did not well respond to it.

In this method, we could detect localized obstructive pulmonary disease in cases with normal F-V curve.

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In order to correct respiratory pattern changed by pursed lip breathing (PLB), a new analytical technique was developed on the Xe-133 regional ventilation study. Pulse signals corresponded to a starting point of each expiratory phase and a pulse of every 10 ml of expiratory volume were generated by a microcomputer system (NEC PC-8801). Each pulse signal was put into the terminal for cardiac trigger pulse and one side of dual energy input terminal of the GAMMA-11 system (DEC) respectively. Image data of the lung by a gamma camera was also acquired simultaneously. Then the functional image and histogram of washout volume to reduce the radio-activity by half (V 1/2) were compared with those of washout time (T 1/2) and breathing times (B 1/2).

Functional image and histogram derived from washout volume were superior to T 1/2 or B 1/2 in estimating an effect of PLB in the patients of CPE.