F. Thyroid gland

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USEFULNESS AND LIMITATION OF THYROID SCINTIGRAPHY USING TC-99m AND Tl-201 IN DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS OF THYROID NODULES
Hokkaido University School of Medicine, Sapporo.

In an attempt to define clinical usefulness and limitation of thyroid scintigraphy in differential diagnosis of thyroid nodules, retrospective evaluation was done. Subjects were 120 patients with thyroid nodule, and all of them were perfomed thyroid scintigra phy using TC-99m, Tl-201, or combined study of the two during last four years. Histological diagnosis has been confirmed in all of them. We reviewed and classified TBII assay using a longer preincubation period was found sensitive, specific and useful for diagnosis and follow-up of Graves' disease.

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IMPROVED SENSITIVITY OF THE RADIOASSAY FOR THYROTROPIN BINDING INHIBITOR IMMUNOGLOBULINS (TBII).
J. Konishi, K. Kasagi, T. Kousaka, K. Arai, T. Nakashima, T. Misaki, Y. Iida, K. Endo and K. Torizuka,
Kyoto University School of Medicine, Kyoto.

We tried to improve the sensitivity of a commercially available kit for the assay of TBII (R.S.R. Ltd.) by analyzing the assay conditions. Among various factors investigated, length of preincubation of the receptors with sample serum was found critical. When the preincubation period was changed from 15 to 240 min. at 25 C, inhibition of the binding of 125I-TSH to the receptor was gradually increased up to 120 min. in the presence of Graves' sera, while that obtained in the presence of TSH or normal sera remained almost constant. Thus, in 20 untreated, 40 treated patients with Graves' disease and 19 patients with "euthyroid Graves' disease" the TBII activities obtained after 120 min. preincubation were significantly higher than those obtained after 15 min. preincubation (p < 0.005). No significant increase of TBII activities was observed in the presence of sera from patients with primary hypothyroidism (17 cases), simple goiter (7), adenomatous goiter (10), thyroid adenoma (11) and cancer (12).

TBII assay using a longer preincubation period was found sensitive, specific and useful for diagnosis and follow-up of Graves' disease.

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MECHANISM OF Tl-201 ACCUMULATION IN THYROID TUMORS.
K. Nakamura, I. Nishiguchi, Y. Takagi, A. Kubo, F. Kinoshita, S. Hashimoto, and H. Takami,
School of Medicine, Keio University, Tokyo.

Tl-201 is clinically used for the thyroid tumor scan, but its accumulation mechanism has not yet been clarified. We previously showed that heart, kidney, and thyroid tumor in which Tl-201 is accumulated had high Na,K-ATPase activities. Now we have reported the in vitro Tl-201 uptake system; incubation of specimens from normal mouse's tissues and human thyroid tumors surgically obtained in the Earle's or Ringer's media. Tl-201 in Earle's medium was taken up in heart, kidney and thyroid tumors (papillary Ca.), but not in liver, normal thyroid and other tumors such as hepatoma, Ehrlich tumor, and mammary Ca. On the other hands, heart, kidney, and thyroid tumor specimens did not take up Tl-201 in Ringer's medium containing no energy sources; indicating that Tl-201 was taken up actively in these tissues. It should be noted that thyroid tumors specimens did not take up I-125, comparing that normal thyroid ones took up I-125 but not Tl-201. The Tl-201 uptake in heart, kidney, or thyroid tumors was inhibited in the presence of ouabain or erythrocytes, suggesting that Tl-201 uptake in these tissues was partly mediated by Na,K-ATPase. The uptake could be carried by erythrocytes and free Tl-201 in plasma would be taken up within the thyroid tumors through their membrane's Na,K-ATPases.