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Renograms

Correlation With Renal Arteriography and Intravenous Pyelography

FRED H. MANDRICK, *M.D.*, and MILO M. WEBBER, *M.D.*, Los Angeles

• A study was carried out to determine how well the information supplied by a radioactive renogram correlates with that obtained by renal arteriography and intravenous pyelography. In 1962 35 patients at the UCLA Medical Center had all three studies. This represents a total of 70 kidneys (one kidney surgically absent). We found the radioactive renogram to be a very reliable and valuable aid in the diagnosis of kidney disease. When compared with the results of the intravenous pyelogram and aortogram, the renogram had false negative result in 11 per cent of cases, and a 14 per cent false positive result.

SINCE TAPLIN and coworkers[5] first reported on their experience with the radioactive renogram, there have been many studies of this test reported. It is a rapid, accurate and easily accomplished test, and is used extensively at UCLA in the study of patients with overt or suspected renal disease. Our purpose is to determine the degree of correlation of the test with other radiographic renal examinations. All patients coming to the UCLA Medical Center during 1962 who had an intravenous pyelogram and aortogram in addition to the radioactive renogram were selected for this study. Our findings as well as case studies will be presented.

In most of the published reports on the renogram, the qualitative method of analysis was used. Stewart and Haynie published an excellent report on a quantitative method of analysis and this is the method used in the present study.[4] The maximum normal peak time (T max) and half time (T ½) of the downslope of the renogram curve were determined in a study of normal subjects done at UCLA by Brown and coworkers.[1] By their standards, the normal value for the T max was up to but not including four minutes. The normal value of the T ½ of the downslope was up to but not including seven minutes. In this study any prolongation of either the T max or T ½ of the downslope beyond these values was considered to be abnormal.

During 1962, 35 patients had the triad of renal pyelography, arteriography and radioactive renography. This does not include any cases in which one or more of the studies was done elsewhere than at UCLA. In only one case was a kidney surgically absent, and the study was based on the total number of kidney sites—that is, 70 (Table 1). Three interesting cases will be presented in detail followed by a discussion of the correlation of the renogram with the other studies.

METHODS

At present the test substance of choice is I-131 Hippuran.®[2,3,6] Hippuran is rapidly excreted by the renal tubules in the manner of para-amino hippurate (PAH), and is not picked up by the liver as is

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EDITORIAL

In the Interim

UNDER PRESENT LAW California's State Legislature meets every two years for the consideration of legislation of a general nature. These sessions come in the odd-numbered years. In the even-numbered years the Legislature meets for the consideration of an annual budget for the state.

In association with the general sessions, or more likely the budget sessions, the Governor may call a special session of the Legislature to consider items listed in a specific agenda.

The "regular sessions," as the general sessions have become known, tend to bring out a large number of proposals, some of which are entered by the members of Legislature in good faith and some of which are obviously put into the hopper to appease constituents.

In the past two decades, experience has shown that about one legislative bill out of each ten introduced has some bearing on the public health or the practice of medicine. These are the measures which the California Medical Association and the Public Health League of California watch or follow closely through their progress in the 80-member Assembly or the 40-member Senate.

In the 1963 legislative session several thousand bills were introduced and the usual 10 per cent were singled out for inspection. Most of the measures which required close following were either adopted or killed in committee. A fair number, however, did not come to a definite conclusion during the legislative session but were referred to interim committees for further study and report.

Such referral to interim committees has come more and more into prominence in recent years as a legislative process which (1) prevents passage of a bill at the moment, (2) provides for a period of real study for controversial measures and (3) keeps alive a subject which otherwise might be dealt with summarily in the pressure of a busy legislative session.

The interim committees in this way assume an importance which had not been particularly noticeable until the last few years. As an example, the Assembly side of the Legislature this year sent 469 legislative measures and 221 resolutions to interim committees. Of these, 47 were measures of general interest to the healing professions and 20 more related to insurance.

In the next two years these measures will be subjected to the scrutiny of interim committees, to public hearings, to committee debate and to the blandishments of legislative representatives interested either in promoting or opposing the objectives of the bills under study.

This interest will be shared by representatives of the California Medical Association and the Public Health League, who will keep close tabs on the various items and the committees to which they are assigned. The interim committees usually consist entirely or in large part of the committees which heard the measures during the legislative session.

The California Medical Association was the sponsor of four legislative bills which have been sent to interim committee for study.

Two of these measures, Senate Bill 333 and Senate Bill 374, are of particular interest to the C.M.A. and will be pursued with the greatest of interest during their interim committee progress. SB 333 would provide that the medical fee schedule adopted by the State Industrial Accident Commission shall establish fees for industrial medical care at a level not less than the customary fees paid for the same services by the public at large. This proposal, along with many others relating to the industrial accident laws, now goes into interim committee study. If the principles in this bill are approved and the bill is adopted and signed in the 1965 Legislature, the bugaboo of industrial fees would be leveled once and for all. Industrial fees have been notoriously low since they were first adopted about 50 years ago, and while some progress has been made since 1946 in bringing them more nearly in line with