creased perfusion in rejection. The combination of the two studies will in many cases distinguish rejection phenomena from other processes.

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Radionuclide Spleen Scans

In the evaluation of a patient with splenomegaly or trauma to the left upper quadrant, the radioisotope scan of the spleen may be used as a valuable screening test. Splenic scans may be helpful in detecting infarcts, hematomas, abscesses, cysts, hemangiomas and metastases. The scan can be used to follow the resolution of splenic infarcts or hematomas and the progress of a patient with splenic abscesses under treatment.

Today the most widely used radioisotopic method of visualizing the spleen involves use of Technetium-99m sulfur colloid, the same agent used for liver scanning, injected intravenously. The colloidal material is phagocytized by the reticuloendothelial cells of the body, which are abundant in the liver and spleen. Another agent, Chromium-51 tagged to denatured red blood cells, is occasionally used when uptake by the liver is undesirable, since this agent will be sequestered almost exclusively by the spleen. This can be helpful in looking for accessory splenic tissue.

In cases where physical examination of the left upper quadrant leaves doubt about the status of the spleen, splenic size and morphology can be quite accurately evaluated by obtaining multiple views of the spleen after intravenous injection of the appropriate radionuclide.

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Ultrasonic Cardiovascular Diagnosis

In addition to the more familiar use of diagnostic ultrasound in the detection of pericardial effusion and mitral stenosis, newer applications have considerably broadened the scope of echocardiography.

It is now possible to diagnose other lesions affecting the mitral valve, such as idiopathic hypertrophic subaortic stenosis and prolapsing mitral valve, by recognizing characteristic displacements of the anterior leaflet during systolic. The introduction of indocyanine green as an ultrasonic "contrast" material has allowed identification of many intracardiac echoes, including those of the aortic root. Distinct echoes arising from the aortic cusps can now be routinely visualized and an estimate made of their thickness.

In many reports, proper transducer placement has allowed accurate and reproducible measurement of the left atrial diameter, as well as indicating the presence of tumor or thrombi in that chamber. Similarly, the left ventricular diameter can frequently be recorded in both systole and diastole, allowing computation of stroke volume.

It is anticipated that more widespread use of this technique will produce still further diagnostic applications.

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Abdominal Echography

Ultrasonic tomography is playing an increasingly greater role in the diagnosis of a wide variety of abdominal disorders. In addition to determining alterations in the contour of the