

TO THE EDITOR

USE OF MORPHINE IN PANCREATIC SCANNING WITH Se^{75} METHIONINE

Recently at the Cleveland Clinic we modified the preparation of the patient for pancreatic scanning. At the time of the Se^{75} methionine injection, an injection of $\frac{1}{4}$ gm of morphine was also given. The purpose of the morphine injection was to take advantage of the known effect it has over the sphincter of Oddi. We believe that the contraction produced by the morphine in the sphincter delayed the excretion of the radioactive material.

The technique plus the pictures of the television image of two of the scans obtained follow.

Technique: Prescanning—from 6 pm the evening prior to the scan until the following morning, the patient receives no food or fluids by mouth. The morning of scanning he is given a fat-free breakfast comprised of fruit juice, chicken broth, jello, egg nog made with skimmed milk, tea and three to four packets of sugar. About 30 minutes later, Se^{75} methionine, (from 3 to 3.5 mc/kg body weight), is slowly injected intravenously and $\frac{1}{4}$ gm of morphine is injected intramuscularly. Thirty minutes later the scanning is started. The results are shown in Figures 1 and 2.

Figure 1 is the television image of a pancreatic scan of a normal pancreas. Figure 2 is the scan of an abnormal pancreas, revealing an area of decreased uptake at the level of the neck of the pancreas; a carcinoma involving this area was found at operation. There was also metastasis to the liver.

Comment: We believe that the addition of morphine to the preparation of the patient has something to offer in the way of improved contrast in scintigrams of the pancreas.

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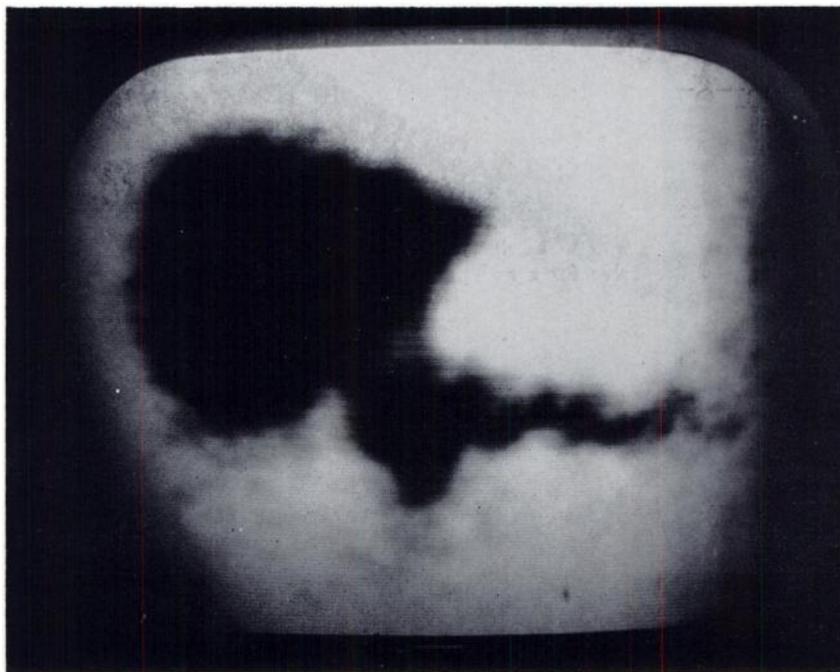


Figure 1

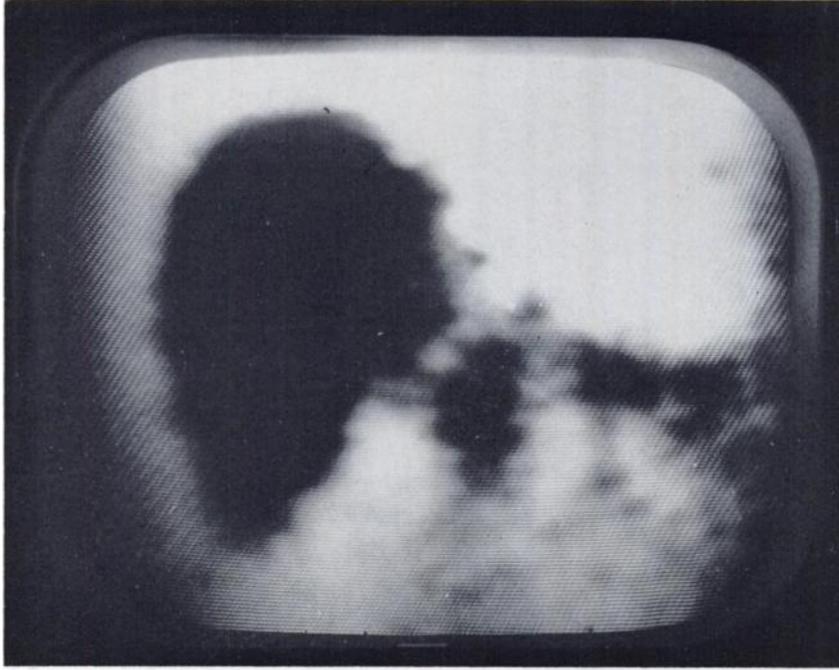


Figure 2

TO THE EDITOR:

re: Research Study given:

$$x + by = u \quad (1)$$

$$ax + y = v \quad (2)$$

solve for x and y in terms of u and v.

Perhaps you could be good enough to enlighten readers of your esteemed Journal as to what kind of personal and/or environmental prerogatives an M.D. has to be endowed with to qualify:

1. To engage in this type of advanced study in a renowned medical institute
2. To receive from the U.S. Government agencies special grants supporting this pursuit and
3. To have the fruits of his ingenuity and labors proclaimed urbi et orbi/on pages of a leading professional journal.

I trust you will appreciate and excuse my anonymity at this stage.

Editor's Note

It is not the policy of The Journal to publish anonymous communications, but an exception is made in this case in the hope that an enlightened reader will reply.