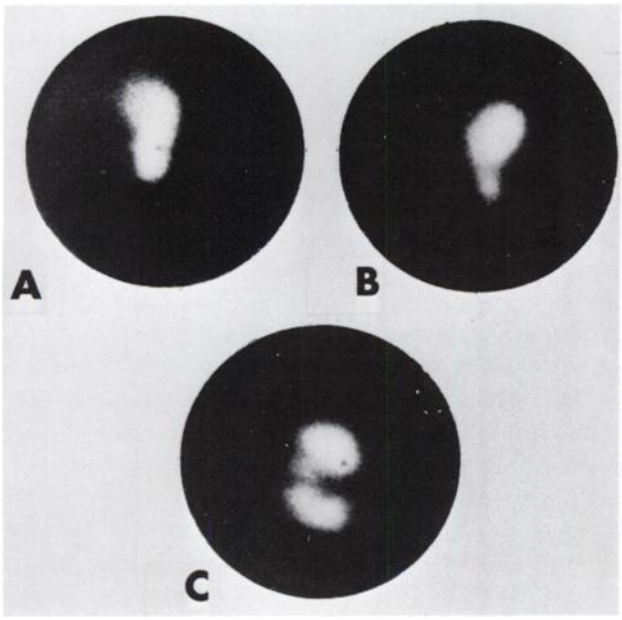

FIG. 1. Spleen scintiphotos 20–30 min after injection of heat-damaged RBC labeled with 2 mCi ^{99m}Tc. Anterior (A), posterior (B), and lateral (C) views show ruptured spleen. Note extent of injury is only apparent in lateral view.

before and 5 min after the addition of tin produces maximal uptake of ^{99m}Tc by the erythrocytes and results in yields of 50–70%.

Following injection, splenic uptake of labeled cells is rapid, and after 15 min most of the activity is in the spleen. Imaging at this time provides good scintiphotos of the spleen without evidence of blood pool activity (Fig. 1). The high splenic uptake enables 200,000 counts to be collected in 1–2 min from a 2-mCi dose of ^{99m}Tc.

The heating is carried out in a sealed tube, and the cells are resuspended in sterile saline so that this method involves no greater risk of bacterial contamination than does the method of Eckelman, et al. We have studied 43 patients by this method and have encountered no problems with reproducibility.

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AUTHORS' REPLY

The authors congratulate Dr. McRae and Dr. Valk for developing a very useful procedure for altering red blood cells suspended in saline. However, this does not alter our statement that our method overcomes problems of time, sterility, and reproducibility *that are encountered in the heat treatment of Fischer, et al* (*1*). McRae and Valk have improved the procedure over *that described by Fischer, et al* in that they have avoided recombination of labeled cells with plasma prior to heating, a potentially dangerous procedure. Alteration of cells suspended in saline, rather than plasma, is preferred.

We have likewise been able to considerably shorten the procedure as reported at recent meetings (*2*). A description of our improved method and of the results obtained is in preparation.

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ERRATUM

In the article "^{67}Ga for Tumor Scanning" by H. Langhammer, G. Glaubitt, S. F. Grebe, J. F. Hampe, U. Haubold, G. Hör, A. Kaul, P. Koeppe, J. Koppenhagen, H. D. Roedler, and J. B. van der Schoot (*J Nucl Med* 13: 25–30, 1972) the initial of the second author should have been "D" (D. Glaubitt).