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SUPERIOR VENA CAVA OBSTRUCTION AND INCREASED RADIOCOLLOID ACTIVITY ON LIVER SCINTIPHOTOS

Recent case reports in the Journal of Nuclear Medicine have recorded the unusual occurrence of focal increases in radiocolloid activity on liver scintiphotos (1–3). We have recently observed two additional such cases. Both patients presented with superior vena caval obstruction secondary to metastatic carcinoma. In each case static and dynamic scintiphotos demonstrated focal areas of increased colloid at the junction of the right and left hepatic lobes (Fig. 1).

Four of five previously reported cases of radiocolloid “hot spots” have also been associated with metastatic carcinoma and superior vena caval obstruction. The fifth case was due to a hemangioma (4). Caval portal shunting due to vena caval obstruction would appear a likely mechanism for this phenomenon (2). Metastatic tumors do not contain Kupfer's cells and “colloid-concentrating” metastatic tumors have yet to be documented.

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REFERENCES

ERRATA

In the Works in Progress abstract entitled “111In-dium-Bleomycin: A New Radiopharmaceutical for Tumor Scintigraphy” (J Nucl Med 14: 641, 1973) Melvin J. Silverstein should be added to the list of authors. The correct sequence of authors is: Ramesh C. Verma, Leslie R. Bennett, Juan J. Touya, Melvin J. Silverstein, Donald L. Morton, and Ewa Witt.