

COMBINATION OF LAXATIVES FOR CLEANSING OF ^{67}Ga -CITRATE ACTIVITY IN THE BOWEL

Since the initial observation of Edwards and Hayes that gallium localizes in tumor sites, various studies have been performed using ^{67}Ga -citrate as a tumor-seeking radionuclide.

At our institution ^{67}Ga -citrate is being used for routine evaluation of patients with lymphoma. As found by us and others, the normal colonic radiogallium activity imposes considerable difficulty in interpretation of abdominopelvic scans.

To overcome this difficulty, we have used until recently various laxatives, either alone or in combination with cleansing enemas. About 40% of the patients still showed residual bowel activity at 72 hr postinjection, which was the day of scanning, thus necessitating a repeat abdominopelvic scan 2-3 days later.

Following the intravenous administration of ^{67}Ga -citrate, each patient was given a combination containing 30 ml of milk of magnesia and 5 ml of cascara sagrada every night for 3 consecutive days. The scans were obtained 72 hr postinjection. Since February 1973, 70 adult patients were studied using this combination of laxatives for bowel clearance.

Of the 70 patients studied, 68 showed excellent

bowel clearance of radiogallium on the day of scanning. Only two patients required a repeat abdominal study at 5 days postinjection to obtain an interpretable scan. Only occasional patients over the age of 50 complained of excessive bowel movements, requiring no treatment except the discontinuance of the laxatives.

Thus in our experience we find that a combination of milk of magnesia and cascara sagrada is rewarding as a bowel prep for the patients who are being studied with ^{67}Ga -citrate. Not only does it help to obtain a "decent" abdominal scan devoid of any residual ^{67}Ga bowel activity but it also saves overall patient study time by negating a repeat study.

We would like to suggest the use of this combination of laxatives in patients being studied for abdominopelvic disease after the administration of ^{67}Ga -citrate.

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