

REFERENCES

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Reply

We have the following comments to the letter by Nishiyama et al.

In the first sentence of their letter they indicate that the eventual internal contamination resulting from diagnostic nuclear medicine nuclides is "relatively unalarming." They follow this by stating that our conclusion has serious implications for the nuclear medicine community. I am unable to discern from the remainder of their letter exactly what these serious implications are, especially since they regard the eventual internal contamination as unalarming.

They have compared our experiment with their own, which is essentially comparing apples and oranges. They themselves state that their results apply to technetium compounds only, whereas ours included iodine-131 and indium-111 as well. Additionally, they spread the radionuclides over the ventral aspect of a finger, rather than on the forearm or wrist. Clearly, the skin is thicker on the palmar aspect of the hand and, if there is any binding at all to the skin surface, it would be more difficult to remove there. Our washings were for a period of 30 sec, whereas theirs lasted 10 sec without soap.

We find it of interest that they object to the use of a high activity, and state that this may be a source of error. In fact, the random variations incurred with lower amounts of activity are much greater; they indicate, for example, that the value for TcO_4^- is $19.4 \pm 15.6\%$; i.e., in some of their analyses, the apparent standard deviation was approaching 80%.

Overall, we do not believe our conclusions are misleading and, in point of fact, Nishiyama's results may also be correct. One fact that they did not address, and one might assume that they agree with—is that the value of chelating agents is no better than that of soap and water in these instances.

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Abstracts for all papers given in the Scientific Program of the SNM 27th Annual Meeting (Detroit, June 24-27, 1980) are available in a separate *Abstract Book*. (The entire contents of the book were originally printed in the June, 1980 *Journal of Nuclear Medicine*.) To obtain a copy of the *Abstract Book* send \$6.50 (in U.S. funds, drawn on a U.S. bank) to: Book Order Dept., Society of Nuclear Medicine, 475 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016. Orders must be prepaid.