

CURRENT ABSTRACTS IN NUCLEAR MEDICINE

CURRENT INTERPRETATION OF THE SODIUM IODOHIPPURATE I¹³¹ RENOCYSTOGRAM.

DORE, E. K., TAPLIN, G. V. AND JOHNSON, D.E., *J. A. M. A.* 185:925, (Sept. 21) 1963

The purpose of this paper is to develop a more accurate knowledge of the elements that make up each of the three segments of the radioisotope renogram, and then to apply names which more nearly correspond to what each segment truly represents. The original descriptions were "vascular" for the rapidly rising first phase, "tubular" for the slower rising second phase and "excretion" for the downgoing third phase. It has been clear from the start that these specific names—especially the first two—were inaccurate representations of the serial occurrences of the renogram.

The authors present a commendable series of studies which analyze the segments more precisely than heretofore, after which they re-name them as "tracer appearance", "blood flow" and "drainage". The suggested names for the first and third segments amount to making them less specific while at the same time describing them usefully: "tracer appearance" is indeed nonspecific, and "drainage" is probably a better name than "excretion" since the latter is a well-defined term in kidney physiology having a different meaning. The most controversial of the proposed changes is the replacement of the partially inaccurate specific term "tubular" by a better, but still inaccurate, term "blood flow".

If descriptive names for these segments are necessary, perhaps they should be sufficiently nonspecific so that future changes need not be made when we have an even more precise understanding of the elements which go into their formation.

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