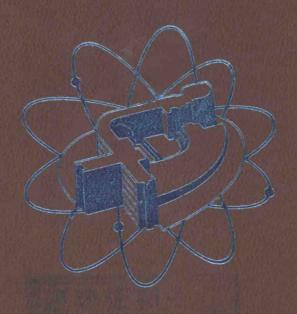
# THERAPY IN NUCLEAR MEDICINE

Richard P. Spencer, M.D., Ph.D. Editor



## Therapy in Nuclear Medicine

Editor

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## THERAPY IN NUCLEAR MEDICINE

Front cover: The University of Connecticut Health Center, the host for the symposium on *Therapy in Nuclear Medicine*, is depicted inside an atom.

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#### **Preface**

The excellent and rapid advances in diagnostic aspects of nuclear medicine have perhaps made us lose sight of steady progress in the therapeutic use of radio-nuclides. In an effort to bring together the past history of such therapeutic applications, their present use, and emerging areas which have clinical implications, a symposium was held in Hartford, Connecticut (March 17–19, 1977).

By means of formal presentations, questions and answers, a round table discussion, and individual interactions, the extent of present information was probed. It became clear that this meeting, and its resultant publication, marked but an early step in exploring the clinical radiation biology of therapeutic radionuclides. The enthusiasm generated at the meeting suggested that others might follow. We are appreciative of the commercial support that aided in funding the symposium, and of the assistance of the sponsoring organizations: University of Connecticut Health Center, Hartford County Medical Association, American College of Nuclear Medicine, Society of Nuclear Medicine, and the Connecticut Division of the American Cancer Society.

Richard P. Spencer

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xii List of Contributors

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### **Contents**

Preface List of Contributors

Sectio	III. BACKGROUND	
1.	Nuclear Medicine and Therapy: A Reorientation to Specificity and Beta Ray Generators Richard P. Spencer	3
2.	Relationship of External Radiation Doses to Internal Dosimetry Rodney E. Bigler	17
3.	Selection of Radionuclides for Therapy Fazle Hosain, Parvathi Hosain	33
4.	Chromosomal Alterations After Therapeutic Use of Radionuclides Niel Wald, Carol Rump Sherer	45
5.	Effects of Therapy on Major Organ Function and Imaging Mohamed A. Antar, Richard P. Spencer	53
Section	on II. THYROID	
6.	Treatment of Hyperthyroidism: Use of <sup>131</sup> I and <sup>125</sup> I Harold L. Atkins	85
7.	Radioiodide in the Therapy for Thyroid Carcinoma William H. Beierwaltes	101
8.	Role of Lithium in Radioiodide Therapy Gerard N. Burrow, Stephen W. Spaulding	113
9.	Attempts to Reduce Whole-Body Radiation Richard P. Spencer	121
10.	Avoiding Inadvertent Fetal Radiation Resulting from <sup>131</sup> I Therapy for Hyperthyroidism Sheldon S. Stoffer, Joel I. Hamburger	129

vi

11.	1. Radioastatine: Possible Uses of a Heavy Halogen  Arnold M. Friedman					
Section	Section III. USES IN NONMALIGNANT DISEASES					
12.	Use of Radiocolloids for Intra-Articular Therapy for Synovitis Leonard Rosenthall					
13.		neutic Implications of Adrenal Scanning Agents on H. Beierwaltes	155			
14.	System	nuclide Irradiation of the Choroid Plexus and Central Nervous  A. Bardfeld	167			
Section	n IV.	SYSTEMIC THERAPY				
15.		Iododeoxyuridine in Experimental Tumor Therapy a D. Bloomer, S. James Adelstein	177			
16.	16. Sulfur-35 Therapy for Chondrosarcoma and Chordoma Klaus Mayer, K. S. Pentlow, R. C. Marcove, H. Q. Woodward, A. G. Huvos, B. Chin, J. S. Laughlin					
17.	7. Systematically Administered Compounds for Lymphatic Ablation Rashid A. Fawwaz					
18.	Gordon	Neutron Capture Therapy a L. Brownell, Robert G. Zamenhof, Brian W. Murray, . Wellum	205			
19.	<ol> <li>Role of <sup>32</sup>P in Polycythemia Vera and Leukemia Tuhin K. Chaudhuri</li> </ol>		223			
20.	Histori Ervin I	cal Development of <sup>32</sup> P in Bone Therapy Kaplan	237			
21.	Androgen-Parathormone Primed Phosphorus 32 for Intractable Pain in Carcinoma of the Prostate  Thomas P. Haynie, Douglas E. Johnson		251			
22. New <sup>32</sup> P Compounds in Ther Robert E. O'Mara		P Compounds in Therapy for Bone Lesions E. O'Mara	257			
23.	. Intralesional Therapy Savita Puri, Richard P. Spencer		261			
24.	Therapeutic Implications of Radiolabeled Vesicles  1. Ross McDougall, June K. Dunnick, Joseph P. Kriss		267			
25.	25. Use of <sup>3</sup> H- and <sup>14</sup> C-Labeled Compounds in the Therapy for Specific Metabolic Pathways Larry A. Spitznagle					

Contents

26.	Relationship Between the Development of Radioactive and Nonradioactive Pharmaceuticals <i>H. Donald Burns</i>					
27.	. Possible Therapeutic Use of Radiolabeled Antibodies: A Review Robert E. Belliveau, Joseph T. Witek					
Section	V. "LIMITED ACCESS" USE OF RADIONUCLIDES					
28.	Uses of Beta Emitters for Intracavitary Therapy Tapan A. Hazra, Robert Howells					
29.	Lymphography and the Endolymphatic Administration of Radioactive Isotopes for the Treatment of Certain Cancers <i>Irving M. Ariel</i>					
30.	Adjuvant Therapy for Colon Cancer by Internal Radiation to the Liver Edgar D. Grady					
31.	Treatment of Metastatic Cancer to the Liver from Primary Colon and Rectal Cancer by the Intra-Arterial Administration of Chemotherapy and Radioactive Isotopes  Irving M. Ariel					
32.	R. J. Blanchard					
33.						
34.	Therapeutic Implications of Nuclear Medicine: Significance and Problems  Moderator: Henry N. Wagner, Jr.  Panelists: Gerald A. Bruno, Stephen P. Bartok, Irving M. Ariel, Ervin Kaplan, Edgar D. Grady	387				
	Index	399				

## SECTION I

## **Background**

## Nuclear Medicine and Therapy: A Reorientation to Specificity and Beta Ray Generators

The field we refer to as nuclear medicine has come full circle. It began with a combination of diagnostic studies and therapeutic applications. Indeed <sup>32</sup>P and <sup>131</sup>I were the mainstays of the discipline for many years and they found employment in several therapeutic schemes. As the imaging applications of short-lived radionuclides were recognized and developed, nuclear medicine became primarily a diagnostic specialty. Yet we can ask a fundamental question: how have we benefited the patient if we establish the diagnosis of an incurable disorder? We view this volume as recognition of the immediacy of that question, and of the potential role of radioactive pharmaceuticals in the therapy for certain human diseases. The full circle has been traversed for we again notice that radioactive materials have a role to play in both diagnosis and therapy. We are at an early stage in understanding the microdosimetry of the therapeutic agents employed, and progress is needed in this fundamental area as well as in clinical applications.

The development of diagnostic radiopharmaceuticals was spurred both by their clinical usefulness and by the appreciation that there was no host reaction routinely expected. In other words, they were diagnostic agents, and were not given in pharmaceutical amounts or to elicit a pharmaceutical effect. By way of contrast, when we utilize radionuclides (R\*) in therapy, we must reorient our thinking. The entire reason for using these materials is to elicit a therapeutic response; more particularly, we are relying on a response to radiation. There are thus the considerations shown in Table 1-1.

The list is by no means all inclusive, but it does illustrate the wide variety of considerations. We can perhaps make this concrete by mapping out some basic concepts in the therapeutic application of radionuclides (Table 1-2). As knowledge of these basic topics increases, we may be able to better design and utilize radiopharmaceuticals for therapeutic purposes.

Supported by U.S. Public Health Service Grant CA 17802 from the National Cancer Institute.

Table 1-1 Considerations in the Response to Radiation by a Radionuclide

- 1. Time course of R\* deposition in the lesion.
- 2. Radiation to the lesion by R\*.
- 3. Release of R\* from the lesion.
- 4. Whole-body irradiation by R\*.
- 5. Radiobiology of events within the lesion.
- 6. Abscopal effects (possibly by release of antigenic and other components).
- 7. Objective and subjective patient response.

#### CHOICE OF RADIONUCLIDES FOR THERAPY

There are two basic considerations in the selection of a radionuclide for a specific therapeutic purpose:

- 1. Chemical or physical properties required for localization in the lesion.
- 2. Type of radiation, and time course of irradiation (a combination of physical decay and biological turnover).

Five types of radionuclides useful in therapy can be identified (Table 1-3). In addition to pure beta ray emitters, we can also utilize beta ray emitting radionuclides which additionally give off positrons or gamma rays (both of which will somewhat contribute to the radiation dose in the region, and which can also be imaged, thus allowing a check on the uniformity of distribution). We presently have access to gamma ray emitters with conversion or Auger electrons. Additionally, alpha ray emitters and radionuclides which undergo fission might be used in therapy. The list is thus extensive and more choices are available than <sup>131</sup>I, <sup>32</sup>P, and <sup>148</sup>Au which have been the standbys in the past.

In a way this requires a reorientation of our thinking. Certain parallels with diagnostic nuclear medicine are apparent—for example, a high target to nontarget ratio. However, a marked reversal of viewpoints also occurs. Consider, for example, the use of radioiodide (131). When a scanner was passed over the neck, gamma rays were utilized and the presence of beta rays was deplored. When 131 I

**Table 1-2**Some Basic Aspects of the Biological Effects of Radionuclide Delivery of Radiation\*

- "Added" effects of chemical interaction and irradiation. Example: enhanced tumoricidal effect of <sup>125</sup>I-iododeoxyuridine over iododexoyuridine.
- 2. "Radiation sensitizers." Example: adriamycin as an inhibitor of postirradiation proliferation.
- 3. Time-dose effects.
  - a. Destruction of "repair mechanisms."
  - b. Differential sensitivity, and recovery, of normal and malignant tissues.
  - c. Role of anoxia.

<sup>\*</sup>These effects are currently under investigation.

A Reorientation 5

**Table 1-3**Five Types of Radionuclides Potentially of Use in Therapy

- 1. Pure beta ray emitters
- 2. Beta ray emitters also having gamma and/or positron emissions
- 3. Gamma ray emitters with Auger or conversion electrons
- 4. Alpha ray emitters (administered, or produced internally)
- 5. Radionuclides which undergo fission

was employed in therapy, the beta rays were the essential contributors and the gamma rays had but a minor role to play. It was the same radioiodide. Only the perspective and intended use had changed. A comparison of views on beta and gamma rays from therapeutic and diagnostic viewpoints, is given in Table 1-4.

We can carry this to the next logical step by examining two groups of known antitumor chemicals (Table 1-5). The compound cis-diamminedichloroplatinum (II) has been synthesized with 193mPt or 195mPt for imaging. 1,2 If the radiolabeled compound were to be used in therapy, then 197Pt might be the radionuclide of choice (this substance emits a 670-kev beta ray as well as a gamma emission). Similarly, purine and pyrimidine analogues can be labeled with 123 I, 18 F, or 77 Br for imaging. For therapeutic applications, radionuclides which deposited much energy locally would be employed. These include 125 I (Auger electrons), 131 I (beta particles in addition to the gamma rays; 82 Br and 83 Br are also in this class), and the pure beta emitters <sup>3</sup>H, <sup>14</sup>C, and <sup>35</sup>S. The choice of radionuclide is largely dictated by its intended purpose-diagnosis or therapy. The next extension is to ask if various radionuclides can be incorporated into an aliphatic chain or aromatic ring in order to gain the needed specificity of the molecule (Table 1-6). There are several apparent choices here (and the list will likely grow with time). Some of these are monoseleno and diseleno compounds,3 mono- and diarseno chemicals,4 rings carrying a positively charged iodine,<sup>5</sup> and those carrying both phosphorus and iodine in the ring.6 Indeed, if a molecule were cleaved in vivo, it might be possible to deliver two or more labeled atoms into the tissue, so that each (or the selected portion) would carry a therapeutic radionuclide.

Table 1-4
Comparison of Views on Beta and Gamma Rays

Therapy	Diagnosis
Beta rays are useful since they deliver ionizing radiation to the limited area that is to be treated.	Beta rays can not be visualized externally and only increase tissue radiation exposure.
Gamma rays are of little therapeutic value (except those of very low energy) since they distribute the radiation exposure over a wide area.	Gamma rays are of primary importance in imaging (except those of low energy, which do not penetrate the tissue).
There may be a role for longer lived radio- nuclides if the radiation has to be delivered over a period of time.	Short-lived radionuclides are preferred since they do not have to be present after the initial images are obtained.

**Table 1-5**Imaging and Therapeutic Radionuclides Which Might Be Employed in the Antitumor Agent *cis*-Diamminedichloroplatinum and in Purine and Pyrimidine Analogues

	Imagir	ıg		Ther	ару	
cis-diamminedichloroplatinum	<sup>193m</sup> Pt	4.4 day	s x-rays	<sup>197</sup> Pt	0.75 days	670 kev β – plus gamma
	195mPt	4.1 day	s x-rays			
Purine and pyrimidine analogues	$^{123}I$	13 hr	159 kev gamma	<sup>125</sup> [	57 days	E.C.
				$^{131}$	8.1 days	600 kev β- plus gamma
	18F	1.7 hr	positron	$^{14}C$	12.5 years 5,700 years 88 days	18.6 kev β- 156 kev β- 167 kev β-
	<sup>77</sup> Br	2.4 day	s positron	82B1	1.5 days	444 kev β- many gammas
				83B1	2.4 hr	930 kev β – 1% gamma

In some instances we have a plethora of radionuclides which might do the task for us. Consider the therapy of lesions in bone (Table 1-7). In addition to <sup>32</sup>P (with its energetic beta particle), <sup>33</sup>P has a slightly longer physical half-life, but a less energetic beta particle. However, <sup>89</sup>Sr has also been used in the therapy of lesions in bone.<sup>7</sup> Moreover, <sup>91</sup>Sr has an even more energetic beta emission and also gives off gamma rays. There are, in addition, two radionuclide pairs that might be used in therapy as "internal" or "in situ" or "in vivo" radionuclide generators. That is, the parent localizes in bone and emits a beta particle. The daughter radionuclide produced is also a beta particle emitter.

$$^{140}$$
Ba  $\longrightarrow ^{140}$ La  
 $^{47}$ Ca  $\longrightarrow ^{47}$ Sc

The use of such internal radionuclide generators still awaits biological exploration.

Table 1-6
Noncarbon Atoms that Can Be Inserted into
Aliphatic or Aromatic Molecules and Radiolabeled

Grouping	Example			
—C—Se—C—	Selenomethionine			
—C—Se—Se—C—	Diselenodibutyric acid			
—C—As—	Arsonoacetic acid			
-C-As=As-C-	Diarsono compounds			
-C-I+-C-	Diphenyleneiodonium			
—P—I—	Iodophosphorus ring compounds			