

RADIONUCLIDE ASSESSMENT OF RENAL FUNCTION UPTAKE AND CLEARANCE STUDIES

Thesis

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AIM OF WORK

INTRODUCTION AND AIM OF THE WORK

The use of radionuclides has become a routine part of the management of patients with nephrourological problems because a number of important questions may be answered by application of these simple non invasive techniques. These include the following: What is the overall renal function? What contribution does each kidney make to the total function? Is there out-flow obstruction present in a kidney whose pelvis and/or ureter is dilated. Has operation for relief of obstruction improved renal function or not?

Various radionuclide quantitative techniques providing numeric indices have been available for many years. They have not been widely used because the techniques and the calculations exceeded the scope of routine nuclear medicine practice. Validation of simplified methods and the introduction of computer technology have made uptake and clearance functions simple enough so that they can be performed reproducibly in most nuclear medicine departments.

The determination of the glomerular filtration rate (GFR) as measured by creatinine clearance has been a recognized mean of assessing renal function. During the past few years, several accurate radionuclide techniques have been developed in order to determine GFR. However, these procedures require multiple blood samples and take a long

time thus imposing logistical constraints upon a busy nuclear medicine department.

Accordingly, the aim of this work is to evaluate renal scintigraphy and the related simple quantitative and semiquantitative studies in reflecting renal function. the validity will be assessed by comparing the radionuclide-computed GFR values with 24 hr creatinine clearance values. Also the scintigraphic results will be compared with available other imaging techniques in some cases.

ANATOMY

