DIAGNOSTIC METHOD UNDERGOING STUDY

Percutaneous transhepatic cholangiography, originally suggested by Carter and Saypol of New York in 1952, has been adapted for use at M. D. Anderson Hospital by Gerald D. Dodd, radiologist, and Melvin L. Samuels, associate internist. Though used successfully in South America for a number of years and to a lesser extent in Britain and France, it has not been used in the United States. The MDAH staff members believe that the procedure is worthy of further trial, and may have value if the patients are properly selected.

This technique involves percutaneous injection of biliary radicals with radio-opaque material to differentiate hepato-cellular from obstructive jaundice and to supply precise information on site and nature of obstruction.

Two cases are cited in an article to be published soon explaining the value of the method. In one case, a differentiation between medical and surgical jaundice was established in a patient in whom clinical and serochemical findings were equivocal. In another case, the mechanical nature of the obstruction was clearly established, with the contours of the obstruction site indicating a probable neoplastic process, and the position of the defect indicating that extrahepatic anastomosis was not feasible.

If proper precautions are taken, no significant complications should arise. Bleeding has not proved a problem in those patients with a prothrombin time of 70 per cent or better. Choleperitonitis could stem from an inadvertent puncture of extrahepatic duct or gall bladder. To prevent this complication, the gall bladder is completely evacuated if it is entered during puncture, reducing the possibility of choleperitonitis. In any case, bile evacuation should be as complete as possible to reduce intraductal hypertension. Successful puncture has been obtained in a series of 25 patients, all with jaundice.

"GENETICS AND CANCER" TO BE TOPIC OF THIRTEENTH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM AT MDAH

The Thirteenth Annual Symposium on Fundamental Cancer Research, "Genetics and Cancer," will be held at MDAH February 26, 27 and 28, 1959. Co-sponsors are The University of Texas Postgraduate School of Medicine, the Texas Division of the American Cancer Society, the Texas State Department of Health, and the National Cancer Institute, U. S. Public Health Service.


Outstanding foreign geneticists participating, and their topics, are: R. Latarjet, Institut du Radium, Paris, radiation in relation to carcinogenesis and mutation; Elie Wollman and Francois Jacob, Institut Pasteur, Paris, lysogeny, transduction and cancer genes; C. D. Darlington, Oxford University, England, the plasmagenic theory and cancer genesis; George Klein, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, cyogenetics of experimental tumors; and Albert Levan, University of Lund, Sweden, relations of the chromosome status to the origin and progression of tumors.

Out-of-state speakers and their topics, include: David M. Bonner, Yale University, gene action; Alfred E. Mirsky, Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, New York, macromolecular synthesis and gene function; Jack Schultz, Institute of Cancer Research, Philadelphia, the somatic mutation theory of cancer genesis; Kenneth B. DeOme, Cancer Research Genetics Laboratory, University of California, Berkeley, genetic determination of cancer susceptibility; Walter E. Heston, site of gene action and carcinogenesis; Theodore S. Hauschka, Roswell Park Memorial Institute, Buffalo, immunogenetics of transplanted skin; George W. Woolley, Sloan-Kettering Institute, New York, tumor cell resistance to antimetabolites and its possible genetic implications; William J. Schull, The University of Michigan, genetics of man; Newton Morton, The University of Wisconsin, methods of study of human genetics; and Madge Macklin, Ohio State University, genetic considerations in human breast, gastric and eye cancer.

Howard B. Andervont, National Cancer Institute, will summarize the symposium.

Participants from The University of Texas include John Biese, who will speak on the chromosomal status of drug-resistant sublines of mouse leukemia L 1210; and Clarence P. Oliver, speaking on genetic studies of families with high cancer incidence.

Seven staff members from M. D. Anderson will participate. Felix L. Haas, head, department of biology, is chairman of the symposium. R. Lee Clark, Jr., Director and Surgeon-in-Chief, will give the introduction. Other staff speakers and their topics are: Saul Kit, department of biochemistry, DNA metabolism and carcinogenesis; Dr. Haas and Charles O. Doudney, department of biology, genetic replication and carcinogenesis; Leon L. Dmochowski, virologist and electron microscopist, department of biology, nucleic acid studies of mammalian tumor inducing agents; T. C. Hsu, biology, genetics of in vitro cells; David Anderson, department of biology, genetic aspects of bovine ocular carcinoma.

The Bertner Foundation Award and (Symposium, Continued on Page 2)
(Symposium, Continued from Page 1)
Lecture will be presented at the close of the Friday afternoon session.
Physicians who plan to attend are requested to mail notification to the symposium chairman at M. D. Anderson Hospital, to facilitate necessary arrangements. All sessions are open to those interested in attending.
A social hour and dinner will be held Friday evening.

CLINICAL CONFERENCE
Cancer chemotherapy, a post-war development, has developed on an empirical basis. The recent attempts to cure patients with cancer through this means was the topic of the Third Annual Clinical Conference held November 14 and 15 at MDAH. The conference was attended by 167 physicians from Texas, Arizona, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Montreal, Canada.

R. Lee Clark, Jr., Director and Surgeon-in-Chief at MDAH, opened the conference, explaining that its purpose was to review and introduce the curative basis. The recent attempts to cure patients with cancer through this means was the topic of the Third Annual Clinical Conference held November 14 and 15 at MDAH. The conference was attended by 167 physicians from Texas, Arizona, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Montreal, Canada.

T. S. Osdene, MDAH biochemist, talked about five areas of current drugs in use: (1) the polyfunctional alkylating agents, (2) antimetabolites (folic acid inhibitors, purine and pyrimidine analogues), (3) antibiotics, (4) hormones and, (5) miscellaneous drugs. Though approximately 30,000 drugs have been tested, only a few selected drugs show great promise, including 6-mercaptopurine for chronic leukemia, and steroids for the hormonal control of cancer.

Clifton D. Howe, head of MDAH department of medicine, reviewed potential palliative therapy. The greatest advancement has been in leukemias and lymphomas, and though life is not extended by the use of chemotherapeutic drugs, there is good evidence of beneficial effects.

Michael B. Shimkin, chief of the biometry branch, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, Md., discussed the development of the evaluation of new chemotherapeutic agents, based on the program of the National Cancer Institute. He said 40,000 compounds may be screened per year (including various antibiotic drugs). He mentioned three compounds, one of which is undergoing clinical trial, which may possibly have a future use as a chemotherapeutic agent. They are: (1) aminocyclopentane-1-carboxylic acid, (2) starylquinolene, and (3) nitrosoquinidine.

Sidney Farber, director of research at the Children's Cancer Research Foundation in Boston, Mass., first to investigate antimetabolites for cancer chemotherapy, discussed problems of clinical investigation in cancer chemotherapy. He stated that the number of chemicals is still too limited and that no chemical in use today has been exploited to its full use. He also showed how viral etiological studies and those on chemotherapeutics are related.

W. W. Sutow, MDAH department of pediatrics, discussed chemotherapy in acute leukemia of childhood. There are three types of conventional therapeutic agents: (1) folic acid antagonists, (2) purine antagonists, (3) adrenocorticosteroids and analogs. These do not induce cures, merely remissions in the disease.

Jess F. Gamble, internist at MDAH, presented aspects of acute leukemia of adults and Daniel E. Bergsagel, hematologist at MDAH, discussed the chemotherapy of lymphoma and chronic lymphocytic leukemia.

Warren H. Cole, head of the department of surgery at the University of Illinois College of Medicine, Chicago, discussed the combination of surgery and chemotherapy in the treatment of patients with malignant disease, explaining that the purpose of the original experiments into the portal vein is to destroy cells dislodged during the surgical procedure and, more important, to destroy or prevent growth of nests of malignant cells deposited by way of lymph and vascular channels.

John S. Stehlin, assistant surgeon at MDAH, discussed recent surgery-chemotherapy experiments at MDAH. Chemotherapy as an adjuvant to surgery is relatively new. He reported results of treatment with perfusion technique of 56 patients at M. D. Anderson Hospital during the past year.

A panel presented clinical indications for the use of chemotherapy and selection of the agents.

Saturday morning's session was devoted to chemotherapy on specific malignant disorders, discussed by MDAH staff members. Chemotherapy of malignant effusions was discussed by Sebron C. Dale; ovarian carcinoma by Melvin L. Samuels; lung by Clifton D. Howe; breast by Nylene Eckles; melanoma and connective tissue tumors by John S. Stehlin.

The organization of the Southwest Cancer Chemotherapy Study Group, whose headquarters are located at MDAH, was outlined by Roy C. Heffebower, executive secretary of the group.

A complete report of the conference will be published in a forthcoming issue of The Cancer Bulletin.
O. R. NURSES TO HOLD NATIONAL CONGRESS

The Association of Operating Room Nurses Sixth National Congress will be held February 9 to 12, 1959 at the Shamrock-Hilton Hotel in Houston. The meeting is open to doctors, registered nurses, nursing and medical students, and hospital administrators.

For information on the Congress, call Mrs. Creber, J. Jackson 9-4511, extension 326, or write the chairman of the program committee, Mrs. Marie Ellison, St. Luke’s Episcopal Hospital, Texas Medical Center, Houston 25, Texas.

NEW CESIUM-137 AND X-RAY UNITS ADDED

A Cesium-137 unit and an angiographic x-ray unit just installed in the radiology department will provide new methods of therapy and diagnosis at MDAH. The Cesium unit is the first of its kind in the Southwest and the x-ray unit is one of the first seven installed in the United States. There are now four supervoltage units, including two cobalt-60 units and a 22 million volt betatron, plus conventional x-ray therapeutic equipment.

For therapeutic use, the Cesium-137 unit is used principally in postoperative treatment for cancer of the breast, and also for head and neck. This unit can give deep doses of Cesium without harming the skin. It will take eight to ten years to evaluate fully the new treatment. The National Cancer Institute has granted $70,324 to Gilbert H. Fletcher, radiotherapist, for the unit (Cesartron), the source (Cesium-137), and three years of investigation to determine its clinical uses.

For diagnostic purposes, the angiographic x-ray unit is used for the differentiation of pulmonary masses, aneurysms, blood vessel anomalies, etc. It is also employed for serial cerebral angiography. Film size on the new unit is 11 x 14 inches, with an exposure rate of from one to six per second at any time during the cycle. The film size affords greater coverage of an area than usually available and the unit is characterized by freedom from breakdown during operation.

It already has proved invaluable in the differential diagnosis of pulmonary and mediastinal masses. It is part of the research program to increase the range and usefulness of x-ray techniques in the diagnosis of malignancies of internal organs.

SURGEONS’ MEETING—PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Two panel discussions will be presented February 3, 1959, by MDAH staff members at the Regional American College of Surgeons Meeting, February 2, 3, 4 at the Shamrock-Hilton Hotel. Both sessions will be presided over by E.C. White, surgeon.

The first, beginning at 1:30, is on the present concepts in cancer surgery. Topics presented will include: The Use of the Ileo Pouch for Ureteral Transplantation, by R. G. Martin, associate surgeon; Adjuvant Regional Chemotherapy in the Treatment of Patients with Malignant Tumors, by John S. Stehlin, Jr., assistant surgeon; Thyroid Cancer, by R. Lee Clark, Jr., Director and Surgeon-in-Chief; and Radical Surgery for Cancer of the Oral Cavity, by William S. MacComb, surgeon.

The second session, beginning at 3:30, is on cancer of the breast. Topics to be presented include: Selection of Patients for Treatment, by Dr. White; Radiation Therapy, by Gilbert H. Fletcher, radiotherapist; Disseminated Breast Cancer and Hormone Therapy, by Nylene Eckles, research internist; and Pituitary Ablation, by George Ehni, clinical associate neurosurgeon.

Cancer Clinic Workshop

During the College of Surgeons meeting, the staff of M. D. Anderson Hospital will conduct a pilot workshop February 4, for the medical directors of approved cancer programs in Arizona, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

The workshop is designed to provide communication between the director of the cancer program, the American College of Surgeons and experts in specific areas on the subjects of operation and administration of cancer programs. This will be the first workshop conducted by the College, and is in the nature of a test to provide a basis for incorporating the "Workshop" into future meetings.

Dr. Clark, as chairman of the executive committee of the cancer committee of the American College of Surgeons, has been asked to conduct this workshop as a pilot study for the American Cancer Society as a possible means of improving the care of the cancer patient at the community level. This committee is in charge of the accreditation of all cancer clinics in America.

The workshop will be held in the MDAH auditorium.

STAFF ACTIVITIES

R. Lee Clark, Jr., Director and Surgeon-in-Chief, was elected vice-president of the Public Health Cancer Association of America at the annual meeting, and first vice president of the Mayo Foundation Alumni Association.

Arthur Cole, assistant physicist, and Earl Van Roosenbeek, betatron engineer, presented an exhibit on "An Atomic Iso-Signal Plotter" at the Radiological Society of North America meeting in Chicago, Ill.

Leon L. Dmochowski, virologist and electron microscopist, presented the award lecture at the Public Health Cancer Association of America meeting. He gave the Blackford Memorial Lecture at the Texoma Cancer Conference, Denison, Texas, on "Viruses as Related to Cancer." He also spoke at the Jefferson County Medical Society Tumor Clinic meeting in Beaumont, Texas.

Gilbert H. Fletcher, radiotherapist, and E. C. White, surgeon, presented a paper on the possibilities of supervoltage therapy in the management of the patient with breast cancer, at the Southern Medical Association meeting in New Orleans, La.

A panel discussion on the management of inoperable carcinoma of the breast was also presented. Moderator of the panel was R. Lee Clark, Jr., and panel members included George Ehni and Nylene Eckles, MDAH, and Ambros H. Storck and Manual Garcia of New Orleans.

A paper by Dr. William Harrell, of Texarkana, Texas, "Small Approved Tumor Clinic and Related G. P. Residency—A Ten-Year Analysis," was discussed by George Ehni at this meeting.

A. C. Griffin, biochemist, has recently been elected a member of the American Cancer Society’s Advisory Committee on Research (Pathogenesis of Cancer).

Felix L. Haas, biologist, presented a paper on "The Relationship Between Several Micromolecular Cell Constituents and Radio Sensitivity of E. Coli," at the meeting of the Society of American Bacteriologists, Texas Branch.

T. C. Hsu, microcytologist, has received a National Science Foundation Grant of $10,350 for the two-year study of "mammalian chromosomes in vivo and in vitro." He recently lectured on "Mitotic Abnormalities and the Chromosome Changes in Neoplastic Cells," at the Intersociety Cytology Congress Symposium in New York, N. Y.

(Staff Activities, Continued on Page 4)
MDAH LIBRARY FACILITIES

The Medical Library at MDAH has 14,335 bound volumes and a subscription list of 578 periodicals, including 80 in foreign languages, all of which are devoted to cancer or related topics. In 1943, the late Dr. E. W. Bertner, then acting director of the hospital, made the first library acquisition. It was Virchow's "Archiv für Pathologische Anatomie und Physiologie und für Klinische Medicin. The set, complete from 1847, is kept up-to-date with each new issue. Other important complete sets include leading American journals, "Journal de Physiologie, Strahlentherapie, and "Folia Hematologica", Henke and Lubarsch, editors.

The M. D. Anderson Foundation has established a book fund which gives the hospital's library the opportunity to acquire periodical sets, subscriptions to foreign periodicals and rare books. Through this book fund, the complete physics library of the late Dr. G. L. Grimmert was obtained, as were recently the 1838 original printed wrappers, in sheets as issued, of a work by the German physiologist, Johannes Mueller.

During the past year the Schering Corporation made a gift of continuing subscriptions to Audio Digest Tape Recordings covering general practice and various specialties in medicine and surgery. These recordings are issued twice monthly for each field and are recorded by the leading men of the profession.

Three publications of the library are available upon request. They are: "List of Articles on Neoplasms"; "New Additions to the Medical Library"; and "Bibliography for Nurses". During the past year, a number of new books were bought to bring the nursing collection up-to-date, and a list of all nursing books available in this library was compiled and distributed to the nursing staff.

For reference work in both clinical and research fields, the library maintains complete sets of medical indexes, including all series of the "Index Catalog of the Surgeon General's Office, Current List of Medical Literature, Index to Hospital Literature, and the Quarterly Cumulative Index Medicus."

It also subscribes to numerous abstracting services: "Chemical Abstracts, Biological Abstracts, all sections of Excerpta Medica, Abstracts of Soviet Medicine, Leukemia Abstracts, Index Analyticus Cancerologicae, Bulletin of Hygiene, Anesthesia Abstracts, ABT (Abstracts of Bioanalytic Technology), Abstracts of Papers (American Chemical Society)."

Since 1948, with the first publication of "The Cancer Bulletin", an exchange has been arranged with publishers of foreign cancer periodicals, and through the courtesy of The Medical Arts Publishing Foundation, publisher of "The Cancer Bulletin", the foreign cancer periodicals received are given for permanent possession to the library at M. D. Anderson Hospital.

As a gift from the National Institutes of Health, the library receives subscriptions to eight Russian medical periodicals which have been translated into English.

This library acts as the branch library for cancer, of the Texas Medical Center library, and its policy is to obtain by progressive accessions as complete a library on cancer information, both current and historic, as can be made available.

The library is available for the use of any qualified M. D. in Texas.

TMC LIBRARY NEEDS JOURNALS

The Texas Medical Center library needs four volumes to complete the set of "Southern Surgical Association Transactions, Vol. 66 through 69, 1954-1957". If you can provide any of the issues for these volumes, please contact Dr. Moise D. Levy, Chairman, Library Committee, Texas Medical Center Library, Houston 25, Texas.

ADMINISTRATOR NAMED

Joe E. Boyd, Jr., has been named administrator of M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute. Mr. Boyd has been at the hospital since 1952 when he was appointed auditor. Since then he has successively been named finance officer, business manager and acting administrator.

Prior to joining the staff, Mr. Boyd was assistant professor of accounting at Southwestern Louisiana Institute in Lafayette and was branch college auditor at The University of Texas.

Born in Stamford, he was graduated from Paducah High School and received his B.S. degree from McMurry College in Abilene and his M.B.A. degree from The University of Texas.