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C-13 (73): ((SGO-517)) "Bone Scanning as a Screening Test in Breast Cancer", Principal Investigator - Charles F. Shield, III, Capt, USAF, MC.

TECHNICAL APPROACH: Two groups of patients are to be studied: 1) those referred for radiotherapy after mastectomy at other hospitals, and 2) those with suspicious lesions defined prior to their surgical procedures. Routine head to pelvis skeletal survey with technetium polyphosphate or diphosphate will be performed. These studies are intended to define by skeletal survey and biopsy of suspicious sites, when available, the efficacy of scanning and the accuracy of scanning where possible.

PROGRESS: This is an ongoing protocol with all new breast carcinoma patients going to surgery participating. Approximately 50 patients have been entered into the study so far, and to date no unsuspected metastatic disease has been encountered. However, many false positives have been encountered attributable to bone and joint disorders. The usefulness of this test in detecting metastatic disease before other techniques so far has not been substantiated. This project will continue to accrue patients for probably 12 more months, at which time sufficient experience and numbers of patients will have been analyzed to reach definitive conclusions.

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