POST-IRRADIATION SYNDROME IN MAN

DNA1.960311.001

Location:

Sloan Kettering Institute for Cancer Research (SKICR)
410 East 68th Street New York 21, New York
1 July 1954 to 31 January 1961

Researchers:

James J. Nickson, MD - Sloan Kettering - Principal Investigator
Henry J. Kock, MD - Sloan Kettering
Arvin S. Geicksman, MD - Sloan Kettering

Organization:

This research was conducted by the Sloan Kettering Institute for Cancer Research. The work was initially supported under U.S. Army contracts DA-49-007-MD-533 and DA-49-007-MD-669 and then supported by the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project (AFSWP) contract DA-49-146-XZ-037.

Subjects:

The subjects were patients at the SKICR all with widespread cancer. Twenty-two patients received total body irradiation (TBI) and 12 received radiation to the head for treatment of tumors. The subjects are identified by initials, types of cancer, and, in some cases, by age and sex. The population was 3:1 female to male with ages from 19 to 63 with an average age of 47 years.

Purpose:

Available reports have been reviewed. The patient selection required that patients with radiation sensitive lesions be excluded. The aim of the study was to evaluate the efficacy of radiation in the treatment of widely spread cancers that were intractable to treatment. The investigators did observe whole body effects on the patients but that was secondary to the evaluation of radiation as a treatment modality. Since the primary intent of the study was to treat cancer and provide a direct benefit to the subjects, apparently the Nuremberg Code and the Declaration of Helsinki were complied with. The radiation source was commonly a Van de Graaf generator. Doses ranged from 50 to 150R for the TBI and up to 4000R was used for irradiation of localized cancers. In addition to the cancer treatment information, data was collected on: clinical observations, hematologic parameters, plasma protein distribution, urine excretion, and electroencephalograms. These observations were reported to the AFSWP. There is no record of clinical follow-up beyond the 75 day post exposure period (the greatest reported period).

Records:

Currently identified records are the reports submitted to the AFSWP by the SKICR. The titles and dates of the reports indicate that certain reports are missing; the missing reports are being sought for review.

Prepared by: CAPT C. B. GALLEY, AFRRI, ((301)295-1048)