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METABOLIC UNIT
MASTER FILE
BOOK I

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PROPOSALS FOR STUDY IN THE METABOLIC WARD

John Gofman

1. The major problem of certain forms of leukemia is the transition of the chronic (usually radiosensitive state) to the acute (radioresistant) state. The nature of the change metabolically and biochemically is one of the problems this laboratory is undertaking as a long range problem. This laboratory is particularly suited for such studies because we have a continual flow of patients who pass through both of these stages while under our observation and care. For the planned studies it will be absolutely necessary to be able to hospitalize such patients for periods during the study of their disease. Should it be possible to gain a clue as to the nature of the change, the problem of leukemia might be far more hopeful.

2. The Irradiation of Lymphatic Tumors (primary and metastatic).

We have already progressed to the point of being able to introduce certain radioactive colloids into regional lymph nodes via the lymphatic channels to those nodes. This opens up the clinical prospect of being able to irradiate regional lymph node metastases in a most specific manner. This should be a great step forward in handling those malignancies that have already spread via lymphatics. However, the actual clinical trial will require hospitalized patients with malignancies for the introduction and study of distribution of the injected radio-colloids. It should be re-emphasized that this work is just about ready for our clinical experimentation.

3. Study of Effect of Intensive Irradiation in Acute Leukemia

It is well-known that irradiation is almost generally of no value in the therapy of acute leukemia. However, it has not been possible to give intensive radiotherapy to such patients because of the complications of hemorrhage

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Proposals for Study in the Metabolic Ward -2-

(Continued)

and infection. With antibiotics, chemotherapeutic agents and such agents as protamine, toluidine blue and other hemostatic agents, there is the prospect that specifically localized irradiation to the involved organs might still prove beneficial in acute leukemia. Such a study would require cautious progress under carefully controlled hospital conditions.

4. The general use of the metabolic ward is anticipated in following leukemia and polycythemia patients who need hospitalization and who cannot otherwise afford private hospitalization under our supervision.

5. The use of the metabolic ward is indicated for studies involving blood and urine chemistry at fasting, resting, controlled conditions. Many such studies are contemplated, eg, study of plasma protein in atheromatosis.

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