

SEATO MEDICAL RESEARCH STUDY ON RENAL STUDIES

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General information

During the past year a renal metabolic service was established at the Royal Thai Army Hospital in Bangkok. This service was established as a joint endeavour by the Department of Medicine of Pra Mongkutklao Hospital and the medical service of the Clinical Research Center. It includes renal rounds which are conducted on a regular basis on both medical and surgical patients, as well as teaching conferences.

A renal biopsy program has been initiated to characterize the clinical pathological spectrum of renal diseases found in Thailand. The experience and training that this program has provided to the participating Thai physicians offers bright prospects of continuity and successful completion. A preliminary review of the initial 50 percutaneous renal biopsies obtained in this study is included in this report.

A dialysis unit was also established. Initially, since it was a training situation, the major emphasis was placed on peritoneal dialysis, which is the simpler and safer mode of dialytic therapy. A total of 27 peritoneal dialyses was performed in 19 patients since this program was initiated. A study of changes in fluid compartmentalization during peritoneal dialysis was undertaken and is included in this report.

In recent months hemodialysis has been added to the program and a total of 7 hemodialyses has been performed to date. It is anticipated that hemodialysis will be more extensively employed now that the preliminary training and experience has been gained, and a parallel study of fluid compartmentalization changes during hemodialysis is planned.

A study has been initiated to determine adrenal function in the normal Thai population. This has stimulated interest and awareness of various clinical endocrinopathies including hypopituitarism and hypothyroidism, and has yielded the initial case report of Sheehans' syndrome documented in Thailand.