Complication of Peritoneoscopic Liver Biopsy

Dear Sir:

I would like to call attention to a potential complication of the peritoneoscopic liver biopsy.

In an attempt to perform a liver biopsy, the rigid tip of the transperitoneoscopic Menghini needle (STORZ catalogue No. K26120G) broke away from the flexible part of the instrument. The patient had decompensated hepatic cirrhosis with a very firm liver. The tip of the needle had to be recovered surgically (Figure 1).

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Liver Disease and Plasma Cyclic AMP

Dear Sir:

We read with interest Francavilla's paper concerning cyclic AMP metabolism in patients with advanced hepatic cirrhosis. We found similar results using a bolus intravenous injection of 1 mg glucagon in patients with alcoholic hepatitis, fibrosis with impending cirrhosis, and cirrhosis.

We also studied plasma cyclic AMP in these patients in response to secretin infusion and found that in patients where plasma cyclic AMP did not change significantly, in patients with liver disease secretin evoked a progressive and significant rise in plasma nucleotide level.

These data suggested that the liver participates in the production of plasma cyclic AMP through the activation of a membrane adenylate cyclase and to the catabolism of endogenous and exogenous cyclic AMP.

It seems that liver damage is accompanied by a decrease of hormone-stimulated adenylate cyclase activity as well as a decrease of hydrolysis and/or biliary excretion of cyclic AMP.

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Induction of Granulomas in Mice by Crohn's Disease Tissues

Dear Sir:

As authors of the article "Induction of Granulomas in Mice by Crohn's Disease Tissues," we would like to draw attention to subsequent independent evaluation of some of the data depicted in this article.

In preparation for the AGA-NFIC workshop on infectious agents in inflammatory bowel disease, held in Tarrytown, New York, November 17-19, 1978, Dr. J. Yardley and his veterinary pathology colleagues examined histologic material of animal work conducted in various centers. He and his colleagues have concluded that the slides from which Figures 2 and 3 of our article were prepared, show a leiomyosarcoma of uterine origin (Figure 2) and a lymphoma of aging mice (Figure 3) rather than granulomatous reactions. These observations do not invalidate our findings, but they do emphasize the difficulties inherent in interpreting histologic experiences in long-term animal studies.

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