CASE REPORT

Whole Body Counting in Erythrocyte Survival Studies

To the Editor:
I am in agreement with Dr. Thorling's conclusions in his recent letter to the editor, (Blood, 29:934, 1967).

In our paper in Cancer Research, 26:198–201, 1966, we used the whole body counting technic to determine the survival of 51Cr-labeled red blood cells. These results were checked by the standard whole blood method also using 51Cr-labeled red cells. We indicated that the whole body counting method was a relative one in which the 51Cr T/½ was definitely longer when compared to the 51Cr T/½ determined by whole blood technics and that the reason for this discrepancy was probably due to retention of 51Cr in the animal's body.

Nevertheless, it was hoped that the whole body counting method could be utilized to quickly determine the relative degree of red cell destruction infected with Friend and Rauscher viruses in whom we suspected the existence of hemolytic anemia. This has not been the case; and in our subsequent papers in Cancer Research, 26:1887–1892, 1966 and the J. Natl. Cancer Institute, 38:779–789, 1967, the whole blood method and not whole body counting was used to demonstrate the decrease in red blood cell survival following infection with Friend and Rauscher viruses.

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NEWS AND VIEWS

ERYTHROPOIETIN AVAILABLE

A limited supply of human urinary erythropoietin is available for investigational purposes. The agent is stored at several levels of purification. It is suitable for animal experiments and chemical study but not for clinical investigation. Requests for this material accompanied by a description of the proposed experiments should be addressed to Dr. James Stengle, Chief, National Blood Resource Program, National Heart Institute, Bethesda, Maryland 20014.