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A Prognostic Criterion in Selection of Cases of Exophthalmic Goiter For Nonsurgical Treatment*

Author's Abstract

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IN previous papers we have discussed the therapeutic and diagnostic use of the response to iodine in thyrotoxicosis. Evidence can now be presented which indicates that the character of the response also gives information of value in prognosis.

A follow-up study on patients treated in our clinic in 1930 by Thompson revealed that the patients who did well on prolonged iodine medication with but few exceptions showed a substandard basal metabolic rate at one time or other during their course of treatment. Patients who did not exhibit this type of response to iodine came to operation.

The animal experiments of Friedgood on the behavior of the basal metabolic rate of guinea pigs with anterior pituitary induced hyperthyroidism showed a similar behavior of the basal metabolic rate when the animals reached the refractory or remissive stage and iodides were administered coincidentally.

Upon the basis of such evidence we have taken the development of a substandard level of metabolism on iodine to indicate that the patient exhibiting it is approaching a spontaneous remission of his disease and therefore does not require operation. In an impressive number of cases this reasoning has proved sound.

The complete reports and all the cases treated according to the above analysis will appear in the New England Journal of Medicine within the year (q.v.i.).

*Only an abstract of this material is available for publication at this time.

The Variability of
Berkson, M.D., and

The Production of
Rabbits by Certain
Collip, M.D., and