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● Physician Reports Radiation Plus Drug Helps Lung Cancer Patients

BY HARRY NELSON

Times Medical Editor

LA JOLLA—The lives of the seminar at least 4.5 million patients with lung cancer. Americans have been lengthened by active thyroid glands, and significantly by a condition which could enhance degenerative diseases. The vast majority, he said, are unaware of their deficiency.

Insufficient thyroid hormone has been associated with hardening of the arteries, fat accumulation in heart arteries which may lead to heart attacks and sluggish brain function. treatment is now used on all patients with primary lung cancer. It predisposes a person to cancer.

Lung cancer has the reputation of being one of the most unsuccessfully treated cancers. The cure rate is estimated at only 5%.

Dr. Heidelberger said that the drug, called 5FU, is ineffective against lung cancer when used alone. In conjunction with radiation it appears to prolong life.

In a series of 26 patients, 13 were given the conventional radiation treatment and 13 the radiation plus 5FU. The average survival of the first group was 5.6 months, with the longest survival at 13 months.

In the combined group, three of the 13 are still alive with keeping thalidomide off at 42 months, the physician in the market in this country reported.

Dr. Paul Starr, emeritus backlog of 2,500 new drug professor of medicine at the applications processing of USC School of Medicine, told which will require a 10-fold increase in staff.

She said once the backlog is out of the way in June, there should be no delay in approving "good" drugs.

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THE SMOKER'S LATEST ENEMY

By Earl Ubell
Science Editor

LA JOLLA, Calif. Cigarettes have spread a new plague through our population, scientists have discovered. It is an epidemic of emphysema, a lung ailment that leaves its victims gasping for breath. The evidence comes from the microscope. Slices of lung from smokers and non-smokers revealed drastic differences in the air sacs and blood vessels. The smoker's lung showed severe damage.

All this came out in the closing session of the American Cancer Society's annual seminar for science writers. While the society is interested in cancer, the emphysema story came out of the research as a by-product.

Dr. Oscar Auerbach of the Veterans Administration Hospital, East Orange, N. J., told how he and three associates had studied smoking in lungs in 1,500 men who had died at the Veterans Hospital between 1955 and 1960.

His verdict: "We are becoming a nation of lung cripples."

The microscopic examination was carried out by Dr. Auerbach and Dr. Arthur Purdy Stout, one of the world's leading experts on the microscopic analysis of tissue. The statistical work was done by Dr. E. Cuyler Hammond, chief statistician for the Cancer Society, and Dr. Lawrence Garfinkel.

The charts and graphs told the story clearly. First, there was the microscopic sign of the rupturing of the air sacs.

The men who had never smoked had little or no rupturing. The men who did had a high degree of breakage, which increased sharply with age and the amount of smoking they did.

For example, at age 45 or younger one-third of the men who smoked more than two packs a day had many ruptured air sacs. At age 60, nine out of ten of these men had broken air sacs. Even those who smoked less than a pack a day had increasing lung liability, rising to half the men at age 60. The non-smokers had next to nothing.

Dr. Auerbach showed similar pictures for the thickening of the air sac walls, for the narrowing of the small and large arteries and for the other microscopic aspects of emphysema. All this means that with increasing age the men find it more difficult to breathe.

Previously, Dr. Auerbach had suggested that similar lung changes accounted for the high heart attack rate in heavy smokers. His idea was that some other disease affected the heart first—for example, coronary artery narrowing—and then the smoke-afflicted lungs embarrassed the weakened heart, making it work harder and perhaps triggering a heart attack.

In all the studies, those who were best off were the non-smokers, next came the cigar and pipe-smokers and worst were the heavy cigarette smokers.

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