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Effect of Route of Administration and Effusions on Methotrexate Pharmacokinetics.
The treatment of Hodgkin’s disease has improved steadily. Over 30 years ago, René Gilbert (Acta Radiol., 12: 523, 1931) and Nándor Ratkoczy (Strahlentherapie, 56: 325, 1936) in Europe advocated intensive radiotherapy for Hodgkin’s based on the concept that generalized disease evolves from a localized stage. Since then, improved radiation sources have allowed more aggressive, systematized radiotherapy. More recently, a new histopathological classification (R. J. Lukes), more detailed clinical staging schemes, lymphangiography, and chemotherapy have encouraged further progress.

M. Vera Peters of Toronto and Henry S. Kaplan have spearheaded improved radiotherapy of Hodgkin’s disease during the past two decades.

M. Vera Peters (b. 1911 in Toronto) was graduated from the University of Toronto Medical School in 1934. Soon thereafter she became associated with the Ontario Institute of Radiotherapy at the Toronto General Hospital, which later evolved into the Ontario Cancer Institute incorporating Princess Margaret Hospital. Her analysis of survival experiences in Hodgkin’s disease at Toronto in 1950 (Am. J. Roentgenol., 63: 299, 1950) was an important impetus to more aggressive radiotherapy. The crude five-year survival rate at the Ontario Cancer Institute has risen gradually from 35 to 70% (J. Am. Med. Assoc., 223: 53—59, 1973). Further changes in therapeutic approach resulted in the division of patients with Hodgkin’s disease into several major clinics according to pathological types.

Henry Seymour Kaplan (b. 1918 in Chicago) was graduated from Rush Medical College in 1940, trained in radiology at the University of Minnesota, and from 1948 to 1972 was Professor and Chairman of the Department of Radiology at Stanford University School of Medicine, Palo Alto, California. He became the D’Ambrogio Professor at Stanford in 1972. His contributions include basic studies in radiobiology and on the role of radiation and viruses in rodent leukemia. He is a member of the National Academy of Science and was President of the American Association for Cancer Research, from 1966 to 1967. Kaplan accelerated the use of radical radiation of regionally localized Hodgkin’s disease (Radiology, 78: 533, 1962) and has achieved over 70% five-year survival.


We are indebted to Drs. Peters and Kaplan for their portraits.
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