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Efficacy of hyperglycemia to increase the effects of radiotherapy and thermotherapy

After a preliminary analysis of the experimental biological effects of hyperthermya on tumor cell kinetics, the authors examine the efficacy of induced hyperglycemia to increase cell sensitivity to combined therapy of radiations and hyperthermia.

The antitumoral effect of hyperthermia is more elevated with acidosis and hypoxia. Acidosis induced by hyperglycemia, increases the antitumoral effects of hyperthermya alone or associated with radiotherapy.

The citotoxicity of the radiotherapy associated to hyperthermya and to hyperglycemia, is 10 times stronger than that of the association radiotherapy and hyperthermya only. The low tumoral growth is directly correlated to the glycolysis status and to the reduced blood flow inside the tumoral mass.

The preliminary data show an heterogenous response of the tumoral cells influenced by several factors histology especially: intact adenocarcinomas of the lung and of the oesophagus and squamous cell carcinoma of the lung respond to this treatment more than others.

In conclusion, the authors hope that new researches in this field confirm their data about the efficacy of hyperglycemic drugs in the enhancement of radiothermo therapy in selected patients. (Second World Week of Professional Updating in Surgery and in Surgical and Oncological Disciplines of the University of Milan - Milan 15-21 July 1990).

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