Correspondence

Distribution of radiocolloids after injection into knee

Sir,

Williams *et al.* (1976) have provided useful confirmation of the effectiveness of bed rest in ensuring maximum retention of isotope in a joint, particularly of gold 198.

One sentence in their article is perhaps misleading. It should be clearly understood that in only one of the publications that they quote were some patients not strictly rested in bed (Gumpel *et al.*, 1973). In our single centre comparison of four yttrium 90 colloids (Gumpel *et al.*, 1975) we compared the retention of citrate, ferric hydroxide, resin, and silicate, in randomly selected patients in identical conditions. Although our figures for retention of ferric hydroxide were not grossly different from those given by Williams *et al.*, the variability of retention in the knee in individual patients was much greater with ferric hydroxide than with silicate. This is clearly shown in one figure in this paper and the results that they have quoted from a paper on chromosomal damage (Gumpel and Stevenson, 1975) are only a brief synopsis of that study.

For this reason we chose to use yttrium 90 silicate rather than ferric hydroxide.

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