

on X-ray, is a question which will only be answered by continued follow-up.

Pathogenesis

Hall⁸ postulated two factors in thyroid carcinogenesis, viz.: (1) An initiating phase in which a carcinogen produces latent tumour cells, and (2) a promoting phase, mediated via endogenous thyrotropic hormone (TSH), which causes the cells to develop into visible tumours. Doniach⁹⁻¹¹ suggested that irradiation may act as the initiating factor and that subsequent growth and development of the thyroid from infancy to puberty, may be the promoting factor.

An alternative postulate emerges from the work of Lawson *et al.*¹² who showed that thymic tissue could inactivate TSH *in vitro* and, since TSH is known to play a part in the development of experimental cancer of the thyroid, it is conceivable that destruction of the thymus might in itself do something to provoke carcinoma of the thyroid by increasing circulating TSH in the blood. It is difficult to disprove this in humans, and present views are that the high incidence of thyroid cancer is due to irradiation of the thyroid itself.

Whether there is a minimum carcinogenic dose of 200 r is debatable; what is vastly more important is that the administration of radiation during infancy and childhood is extremely dangerous. By contrast the adult thyroid is reasonably resistant to the development of radiation cancer. Duffy⁶ reports a series of 328 cases who had received X-ray therapy for thyrotoxicosis more than 25 years previously, and of whom none developed thyroid cancer. Quimby and Werner¹³ state that in the adult the possibility of late malignant degeneration following roentgen therapy for toxic goitre is negligible. It should, however, be noted that 4 of their series developed carcinoma of other neck structures (larynx, trachea and oesophagus) 20 years after the X-ray therapy for thyrotoxicosis.

Duffy⁶ in addition to advocating restriction of unnecessary external irradiation also discourages the use of tracer ¹³¹I

in infancy and childhood. The *British Medical Journal* in an editorial¹⁴ points out that a dose of ¹³¹I resulting in a thyroidal uptake of 20 microcuries distributed equally throughout a 10-g. gland would deliver 200 r to the thyroid. Whilst this would be fraught with danger in the child, the effect on the adult thyroid is not nearly so hazardous. Radioiodine was first used in the treatment of thyrotoxicosis in 1940 and since that time reports of more than 5,000 adult patients treated with it have been published, without a single case of cancer of the thyroid definitely attributable to the treatment.

SUMMARY

A case is reported of papillary carcinoma of the thyroid in a girl of 12, following 7 years after irradiation to the neck; the literature of the association between irradiation to the neck in children and the subsequent development of cancer of the thyroid is reviewed. The possible pathogenesis is briefly considered.

Mention is made of the dangers of radio-iodine as a diagnostic tool in infancy and childhood in contrast to its apparent safety in adults.

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OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT : AMPTELIKE AANKONDIGING RULES OF PROCEDURE : REËLS VAN PROSEDURE

The following rules of procedure were made by the Federal Council of the Medical Association of South Africa under the provisions of Article 29*tres** of its Articles of Association to govern enquiries into complaints regarding the ethical and/or professional conduct of individual Members of the Association.

1. It is contemplated that in conformity with and by virtue of the provisions of Article 10 (c) each Branch and each Division of the Association shall and will annually appoint an Ethical Committee and that, where in the case of any Branch no such Committee is appointed in any one year, the Council of such Branch shall act as the relative Ethical Committee for such year; and similarly that, where in the case of any Division no such Committee is appointed in any one year, the Executive Committee of such Division shall act as its Ethical Committee for such year.

2. In these Rules the expression 'Ethical Committee' shall accordingly be deemed to refer to the Ethical Committee of a Branch or of a Division, as the case may be; or, where, in the case of any Branch, no such Committee has been appointed in any one year, the said expression shall be deemed to refer to the Council of such Branch; and similarly, where in the case of any Division no such Committee has been appointed in any one year, the

Die volgende reëls van prosedure is deur die Federale Raad van die Mediese Vereniging van Suid-Afrika opgestel ingevolge die bepalings van Artikel 29*tres** van sy Statute van Oprigting, vir die ondersoek van klagtes insake die etiese en/of professionele gedrag van individuele lede van die Vereniging.

1. Dit word beoog dat ooreenkomstig met en kragtens die bepalings van Artikel 10 (c) elke tak en elke afdeling van die Vereniging elke jaar 'n etiese komitee moet en sal aanstel en dat, waar in die geval van 'n tak sodanige komitee in enige jaar nie aangewys is nie, die takraad van sodanige tak as die betrokke etiese komitee vir daardie jaar sal ageer; so ook dat, waar in die geval van 'n afdeling sodanige komitee in enige jaar nie aangewys is nie, dit uitvoerende komitee van sodanige afdeling as die etiese komitee vir daardie jaar sal ageer.

2. Gevolglik sal die uitdrukking 'etiese komitee' in hierdie reglemente beskou word om te verwys na die etiese komitee van 'n tak of 'n afdeling, soos die geval mag wees; of, waar in die geval van enige tak geen sodanige komitee in enige jaar aangewys is nie, sal gemelde uitdrukking beskou word om te verwys na die raad van sodanige tak; so ook, waar in die geval van 'n afdeling geen sodanige komitee in enige jaar aangewys is nie, sal gemelde uitdrukking 'etiese komitee' beskou word om betrekking te hê op die uitvoerende komitee van sodanige afdeling.

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said expression 'Ethical Committee' shall be deemed to refer to the Executive Committee of such Division.

3. If a complaint is received by the Honorary Secretary of a Branch or of a Division regarding the conduct of a Member of the Association he shall immediately consult the President of his Branch or the Chairman of his Division, as the case may be, who shall decide whether or not the matter shall be dealt with immediately or at all by the relevant Ethical Committee, provided that no complaint shall be received by the Honorary Secretary aforesaid unless it be in writing, signed by the complainant, and that it shall be competent for the President of the relevant Branch or the Chairman of the relevant Division, as the case may be, at any stage to require the allegations made in the complaint to be supported by affidavit.

4. If the said President or Chairman, as the case may be, considers that the complaint either does not merit enquiry by the relevant Ethical Committee or that the complaint is not of a nature suitable for enquiry by the relevant Ethical Committee, he shall inform the Honorary Secretary of the relevant Branch or Division accordingly and the said Honorary Secretary shall in turn report the decision of the President or Chairman, as the case may be, to the relevant Ethical Committee and to the complainant.

5. If the said President or Chairman, as the case may be, considers that the complaint is either one for enquiry by the relevant Ethical Committee or is of so grave a nature that it may be appropriate to refer it for enquiry to the South African Medical and Dental Council, he shall refer the complaint to the relevant Ethical Committee for consideration.

6. It shall thereupon be the duty of the relevant Ethical Committee to decide, on the information before it, whether *prima facie* there has been a breach of any rule of the South African Medical and Dental Council regarding conduct of which that Council may take cognizance, and if the relevant Ethical Committee comes to an affirmative decision it shall take no further action, but shall either itself refer the complaint to the said Council or cause the complainant to be informed that he should do so himself if he is so advised.

7. If the relevant Ethical Committee decides that the subject matter of the complaint is *prima facie* neither one for reference to the South African Medical and Dental Council nor one in regard to which it is appropriate that it should hold a formal enquiry, the Secretary of the relevant Branch or Division shall be informed accordingly and the matter, together with the decision of the relevant Ethical Committee, shall be referred to the Council of the relevant Branch or to the Executive Committee of the relevant Division, as the case may be, for the information of such Council or Committee.

8. If the relevant Ethical Committee decides that an enquiry should be held by it, then and in that event, in conformity with Article 9 (a) (i), it shall cause a registered prepaid letter to be directed to the Member at his last known address notifying him of the allegations made against him and of the time (not being less than fourteen (14) days after the time of the posting of the said registered letter) and of the place of the enquiry to be held in regard thereto by the relevant Ethical Committee. In the said letter the said Member shall be invited to appear before the said Ethical Committee to answer the complaint made against him and defend himself; and should the Member not appear before the said Ethical Committee without tendering an explanation regarded by the relevant Ethical Committee as reasonable, the said Ethical Committee shall be entitled to deal with the matter in his absence provided that the Committee is satisfied that the aforesaid registered letter has been duly addressed and despatched to him as aforesaid.

The text of this Rule 8 as also of Rule 9 of these Rules of Procedure shall be cited in or at the foot of the said letter for the information of the said Member and a copy of the aforesaid letter shall be despatched concurrently by registered prepaid letter to the complainant.

9. It shall be permissible both for the complainant and the Member against whom complaint is made, to submit such evidence, both documentary and *viva voce*, as they may desire to submit, provided that both the Member and the complainant shall have the right to cross-examine any witness produced by the other of them and that no evidence shall be accepted as admissible which the relevant Ethical Committee does not regard as relevant.

10. The relevant Ethical Committee shall consider all the

3. Indien 'n klag in verband met die gedrag van 'n lid van die Vereniging deur die eresekretaris van 'n tak of 'n afdeling ontvang word, moet hy onmiddellik oorleg pleeg met die president van sy tak of met die voorsitter van sy afdeling, soos die geval mag wees, wat dan moet besluit of die saak onmiddellik of in die geheel wel deur die betrokke etiese komitee behandel moet word, met dien verstande dat geen klag deur die gemelde eresekretaris ontvang sal word tensy dit skriftelik en deur die klaer onderteken is nie, en dat dit binne die bevoegdheid val van die president van die betrokke tak, of van die voorsitter van die betrokke afdeling, soos die geval mag wees, om op enige stadium te vereis dat die bewerings wat in die klag gemaak word, deur 'n beëdigde verklaring gestaaf moet word.

4. Indien die gemelde president of voorsitter, soos die geval mag wees, van mening is dat die klag òf nie ondersoek deur die betrokke etiese komitee regverdig nie, òf nie van so 'n aard is dat dit geskik is vir ondersoek deur die betrokke etiese komitee nie, sal hy die eresekretaris van die betrokke tak of afdeling dienooreenkomstig in kennis stel en die gemelde eresekretaris sal op sy beurt die besluit van die president of voorsitter, soos die geval mag wees, aan die betrokke etiese komitee en die klaer bekend maak.

5. Indien die gemelde president of voorsitter, soos die geval mag wees, van mening is dat die klag een is wat òf deur die betrokke etiese komitee ondersoek moet word òf van so 'n ernstige aard is dat dit paslik is om dit vir ondersoek na die Suid-Afrikaanse Geneeskundige en Tandheelkundige Raad te verwys, sal hy die klag na die betrokke etiese komitee vir oorweging verwys.

6. Dit sal dan die plig van die betrokke etiese komitee wees om, op grond van die inligting voor hom, te besluit of daar *prima facie* 'n oortreding van enige reël van die Suid-Afrikaanse Geneeskundige en Tandheelkundige Raad met betrekking tot gedrag waarvan die Raad kennis kan neem, plaasgevind het, en indien die betrokke etiese komitee 'n bevestigende besluit geneem het, sal hy self geen verdere stappe doen nie, maar òf self die klag na die gemelde Raad verwys, òf die klaer laat weet dat hy dit self behoort te doen as hy dit raadsaam ag.

7. Indien die betrokke etiese komitee besluit dat die inhoud van die klag *prima facie* nie na die Suid-Afrikaanse Geneeskundige en Tandheelkundige Raad hoef verwys te word nie en dat dit ook nie sodanig is dat 'n formele ondersoek hoef ingestel te word nie, sal die sekretaris van die betrokke tak of afdeling dienooreenkomstig in kennis gestel word, en die saak, tesame met die besluit van die betrokke etiese komitee, moet dan na die raad van die betrokke tak of na die uitvoerende komitee van die betrokke afdeling, soos die geval mag wees, vir kennisname van sodanige raad of komitee verwys word.

8. Indien die betrokke etiese komitee besluit dat 'n ondersoek deur hom ingestel moet word, dan en in daardie geval moet die komitee ooreenkomstig Artikel 9 (a) (i), 'n aangetekende vooruitbetaalde brief aan die lid na sy jongste (bekende) adres laat stuur, waarin hy in kennis gestel word van die bewerings wat teen hom gemaak is en van die tyd (wat nie minder as veertien (14) dae na die datum wanneer die aangetekende brief gepees is moet wees nie) wanneer en waar die ondersoek in verband daarmee deur die betrokke etiese komitee sal plaasvind. In gemelde brief moet die gemelde lid genooi word om voor die gemelde etiese komitee te verskyn om op die klag teen hom te antwoord en homself te verdedig. Sou die lid nie voor die gemelde etiese komitee verskyn sonder om 'n verduideliking aan te bied wat deur die betrokke etiese komitee as redelik beskou word nie, sal die gemelde etiese komitee geregtig wees om in sy afwesigheid die saak te behandel op voorwaarde dat die komitee tevrede is dat gemelde aangetekende brief behoorlik soos gemeld geadresseer en afgestuur is. Die teks van hierdie reël 8, asook dié van reël 9 van hierdie Reëls van Prosedure sal vir die inligting van gemelde lid in of aan die end van die gemelde brief aangehaal word, en 'n afskrif van die gemelde brief sal gelyktydig per aangetekende vooruitbetaalde brief aan die klaer gestuur word.

9. Dit sal vir sowel die klaer as die lid teen wie 'n klag ingedien is, toelaatbaar wees om sodanige getuïenis, dokumentêr sowel as mondelings, as wat hulle verkies om in te dien, te lewer, op voorwaarde dat sowel die lid as die klaer die reg sal hê om enige getuie wat deur die ander een (van hulle) gebring word onder kruisverhoor te neem en dat geen getuïenis wat die betrokke etiese komitee beskou as nie van toepassing nie, as toelaatbaar aangeneem sal word nie.

10. Die betrokke etiese komitee sal al die getuïenis wat by

evidence placed before it at the enquiry without avoidable delay and unless it considers that the Member against whom complaint has been made should be exonerated, it shall make its representations to the Federal Council of the Association, giving a full report of the enquiry together with its recommendation either that the Member be warned, reprimanded or expelled from membership of the Association. The said representations with report and recommendation shall in the first instance be conveyed by the relevant Ethical Committee to the Secretary of the relevant Branch or Division for transmission to the Secretary of the Association provided that where the relevant enquiry has been held by the Ethical Committee of a Division, the Secretary of such Division shall communicate with the Secretary of the Association through the Secretary of the relevant Branch.

If the relevant Ethical Committee considers that the said Member should be exonerated, it shall report according to the Secretary of the relevant Branch or Division, who shall notify the said Member and complainant accordingly, but otherwise no further action shall be taken.

11. Upon receipt of the representations with the report and recommendation referred to in the preceding Rule the Secretary of the Association shall see that due compliance is made with the provisions of Article 9 (a) (ii) and have the representations, report and recommendations, or copies thereof, together with any counter-representations made by the Member concerned, circulated amongst members of the Federal Ethical Committee who shall consider the matter either as a body in meeting assembled or separately and shall have the right to submit comments thereon to the Federal Council of the Association.

12. The Federal Council of the Association shall thereafter come to a decision with due regard for the provisions of Article 9 (a) and 9 (b) and in the light of all the information at its disposal, including any counter-representations submitted by the Member concerned in writing in conformity with the provisions of Article 9 (a) (ii), and such representations as he may have made in person in his own defence in conformity with the provisions of Article 9 (a) (iii).

13. Notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 8, if the relevant Ethical Committee decides that the subject matter of the complaint is *prima facie* not one for reference to the South African Medical and Dental Council as aforesaid but one which should be dealt with by itself, it shall be competent for such relevant Ethical Committee, before proceeding to take steps to hold a formal enquiry, to endeavour to dispose of the complaint informally and expeditiously, provided the complainant and the Member concerned have signified their willingness to abide by the decision of the relevant Ethical Committee, and provided further that if the efforts of the relevant Ethical Committee to dispose of the matter expeditiously and informally as aforesaid are unsuccessful, the said relevant Ethical Committee shall not be deemed to be precluded from thereupon applying the relevant provisions of these Rules, including the provisions of Rule 8.

14. All proceedings of Ethical Committees, including their decisions, representations, reports and recommendations, shall be reported by them to the next ensuing meeting of the relevant Council, in the case of a Branch, or to the next ensuing meeting of the relevant Executive Committee, in the case of a Division.

15. Insofar as it may be found at any time that there is any inconsistency or conflict between any Rules of the Council and any Rule which may have been passed or which may hereafter be passed by any Division or Branch of the Association, the Rules of the Council shall prevail, shall be of force and effect and shall be regarded as binding on all Divisions and Branches of the Association to the exclusion of any conflicting Rule of any Division or Branch, as the case may be.

16. In applying these Rules, Ethical Committees, the Councils of Branches and the Executive Committees of Divisions shall bear in mind the following:

(a) These Rules are designed primarily for dealing with complaints made by one Member against another Member.

(b) If complaint is made by a member of the public against a Member, the relevant Ethical Committee should not investigate the matter, unless on written legal advice the relevant Ethical Committee is advised that it is appropriate to do so.

(c) Only exceptionally shall the Ethical Committee deal with a

die ondersoek voor hom gelê is sonder vermybare vertraging oorweeg en tensy hy meen dat die lid teen wie 'n klag ingedien is, van die klag onthef moet word, sal hy sy vertoë tot die Federale Raad van die Vereniging rig met 'n volledige verslag van die ondersoek tesame met sy aanbeveling dat die lid of gewaarsku, of tereggewys, of as lid van die Vereniging geskraap moet word. Die gemelde vertoe met verslag en aanbeveling moet in die eerste geval deur die betrokke etiese komitee aan die sekretaris van die betrokke tak of afdeling oorgedra word vir verdere verwysing na die sekretaris van die Vereniging met dien verstande dat, as die betrokke ondersoek deur die etiese komitee van 'n afdeling gedoen is, die sekretaris van sodanige afdeling met die sekretaris van die Vereniging deur die sekretaris van die betrokke tak in verbinding sal tree.

As die betrokke etiese komitee van mening is dat die lid van die klag onthef moet word, sal hy dienooreenkomstig aan die sekretaris van die betrokke tak of afdeling verslag doen en laasgenoemde sal die gemelde lid en klaer dienooreenkomstig in kennis stel, maar andersins sal geen verdere stappe gedoen word nie.

11. Na ontvangs van die vertoë met die verslag en aanbeveling, waarna in die voorafgaande reël verwys is, moet die sekretaris van die Vereniging sorg dat die bepaling van Artikel 9 (a) (ii) behoorlik nagekom word en dat die vertoë, verslag en aanbevelings, of afskrifte daarvan, tesame met enige teenvertoë wat deur die betrokke lid ingedien is, onder die lede van die Federale Etiese Komitee gesirkuleer word, wat die saak of in rade of apart moet oorweeg en wat die reg sal hê om kommentaar daaroor by die Federale Raad van die Vereniging in te dien.

12. Die Federale Raad moet daarna tot 'n besluit kom met behoorlike inagneming van die bepaling van Artikels 9 (a) en 9 (b) en op grond van al die inligting tot sy beskikking, insluitende enige teenvertoë wat skriftelik deur die betrokke lid ooreenkomstig die bepaling van Artikel 9 (a) (ii) ingedien is, en sodanige vertoë as wat hy persoonlik ooreenkomstig Artikel 9 (a) (iii) tot sy eie verdediging gerig het.

13. Nieteenstaande die bepaling van Reël 8, as die betrokke etiese komitee besluit dat die onderwerp van die klag *prima facie* nie een is wat na die Suid-Afrikaanse Geneeskundige en Tandheelkundige Raad soos gemeld, verwys moet word nie, maar deur homself behandel moet word, sal dit binne die bevoegdheid van sodanige betrokke etiese komitee wees, alvorens stappe gedoen word om 'n formele ondersoek in te stel, om te probeer om die klag op informele wyse en met spoed uit die weg te ruim, op voorwaarde dat die klaer en die betrokke lid hulle bereidwillig verklaar het om hulle by die besluit van die betrokke etiese komitee neer te lê, en op voorwaarde verder dat, indien die pogings van die betrokke etiese komitee om die saak informeel en met spoed, soos gemeld, op te los nie slaag nie, dit nie beskou sal word dat die gemelde betrokke etiese komitee belet word om daarna die betrokke bepaling van hierdie reëls, die bepaling van reël 8 inbegrepe, toe te pas nie.

14. Van alle verrigtinge van etiese komitees, ingeslote hul besluite, vertoë, verslae en aanbevelings, moet deur hulle aan die betrokke raad by sy eerste daaropvolgende vergadering verslag gedoen word, in die geval van 'n tak, of aan die eerste daaropvolgende vergadering van die betrokke uitvoerende komitee, in geval van 'n afdeling.

15. In sover as daar te eniger tyd enige ongelykheid of teenstrydigheid bevind mag word tussen enige reëls van die Raad en enige reël wat deur enige afdeling of tak van die Vereniging aangeneem mag wees of hierna aangeneem mag word, sal die reëls van die Raad geldig, van krag en in werking wees en sal hulle beskou word as die reëls wat alle afdelings en takke van die Vereniging bind, met uitsluiting van enige strydige reël van enige afdeling of tak, soos die geval mag wees.

16. By die toepassing van hierdie reëls moet etiese komitees, die rade van takke en die uitvoerende komitees van afdelings die volgende in gedagte hou:

(a) Hierdie reëls is die eerste plek ontwerp om klagtes van een lid teen 'n ander lid te behandel.

(b) Indien 'n klag deur 'n lid van die publiek teen 'n lid ingebring word, behoort die betrokke etiese komitee die saak nie te ondersoek nie tensy die betrokke etiese komitee deur skriftelike regsadvies aangeraai is dat dit paslik is om dit te doen.

(c) Slegs in uitsonderlike gevalle sal die etiese komitee 'n klag, wat deur 'n geneesheer wat miskien nie 'n lid is nie, teen 'n lid ingedien is, in behandeling neem en slegs dan op voorwaarde

complaint lodged by a medical practitioner who may not be a Member, against a Member, and only then provided both parties have agreed in writing to the Ethical Committee dealing with the matter substantially in accordance with these Rules and consent to be bound by the decision of the Ethical Committee or of any other organ of the Association functioning under these Rules.

(d) If it appears to the relevant Ethical Committee that legal issues are involved, the complainant should be advised that the matter is not one of a nature which it is appropriate for the Ethical Committee to deal with and that he should seek legal advice.

(e) In all cases it is highly desirable to act expeditiously so that grievances may be settled before they grow more acute and feelings become embittered.

17. The Rules of Procedure passed by Federal Council on 26 March 1953 are hereby superseded.

Adopted by resolution of Federal Council passed at its meeting in Johannesburg on 26 April 1958.

By order of the Council.

A. H. Tonkin
Secretary

dat albei partye skriftelik ingestem het dat die etiese komitee die saak wesenlik in ooreenkoms met hierdie reëls behandel en dat hulle toestem om deur die besluit van die etiese komitee, of van enige ander liggaam van die Vereniging wat volgens hierdie reëls funksioneer, gebonde te wees.

(d) Indien dit vir die betrokke etiese komitee lyk of regsprent betrokke is, moet die klaer in kennis gestel word dat die saak nie van 'n aard is wat geskik is om deur die etiese komitee in behandeling geneem te word nie en dat hy regsadvies behoort in te win.

(e) In alle gevalle is dit uiters wenslik om met spoed op te tree sodat griewe uit die weg geruim kan word voordat hulle meer akuut word en gevoelens verder verbitter word.

17. Hierdie reëls van prosedure vervang die reëls wat deur die Federale Raad op 26 Maart 1953 aangeneem is.

Goedgekeur deur 'n besluit van die Federale Raad geneem op sy vergadering te Johannesburg op 26 April 1958.

Op las van die Raad.

A. H. Tonkin
Sekretaris