

## **USE OF 23-SELENA-25-HOMOTAUROCHOLIC ACID (SeHCAT) TEST IN PATIENTS WITH ILEAL DYSFUNCTION OR DIARRHEA.**

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The gamma-emitting 23-(75) seleno-25-homotaurocholic acid (SeHCAT) test has recently been introduced into clinical use for detecting diseases of the ileum and diarrheic syndromes linked to suspected malabsorption of bile salts. We evaluated the efficiency of the test in various digestive disorders and seventy-seven subjects were studied. The frequency of bile salt malabsorption was 50% in patients with ileal disorders (Crohn's disease of the ileum or ileal resection) and 40% in patients who had surgical procedures such as vagotomy or (and) cholecystectomy. However, when considering only patients with diarrhea, the frequency was higher: 90% in the first group and 60% in the last group. It was 40% in patients with diarrhea unrelated to ileal disorders or surgical procedures. Moreover, abnormal SeHCAT test proved to be valuable to predict improvement of diarrhea by resins. When compared to other parameters of malabsorption, only serum cholesterol levels were significantly correlated with the SeHCAT test.

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