Endomyocardial Biopsy

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In order to perform a safe and dependable biopsy of the endocardium and myocardium a special "Endomyocardial Biotome" was designed. It consists of a pair of forceps with a flexible and long neck. The forceps are inserted through a peripheral blood vessel, and is radioscopically led into the ventricle. From inside of the heart, part of endocardium and myocardium is excised and brought back. Since biopsy is performed from inside of the heart, just the needed amount of biopsy specimens can be collected from just designated chamber of the heart without the danger of damage to coronary vessels or of pericardial bleeding. Up till now, this biopsy was performed on 225 patients, but no serious complication has occurred in any of them. Now it has come to be used by many researchers and been recognized as the safe and dependable biopsy.

Till the end of last year the specimens collected were chiefly examined only by optical microscope. But since the beginning of this year, histochemical analysis, examination with fluorescent antibody, and observation by electron microscope have been added to our study and this addition has been producing some very precious data.

The technique of the "endomyocardial biopsy" which was devised by Dr. Konno was explained in detail, and some of the clinical cases were presented, and the results thus far achieved were demonstrated.