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## CAUTION URGED IN USING MICROWAVED TECHNETIUM-99M SESTAMIBI

**To the Editor:** We read with great interest the letter from Wilson, Hung, and Gibbons of the Mayo Clinic (*J Nucl Med Technol* 1992;20:180) regarding a "Simple Procedure for Mi-

crowaved Technetium-99m Sestamibi Temperature Reduction." In their letter, the authors suggest that if a unit dose of Cardiolite (Du Pont Pharma, Billerica, MA) is withdrawn from the vial in a shielded 3-ml syringe just after heating, the temperature of the dose will be acceptable for intravenous injection in about 3 minutes.

While we do not dispute these findings, it has recently come to our attention that Cardiolite image quality may become moderately compromised by stomach uptake under the following combination of conditions: dilution of Cardiolite in the vial immediately after heating, followed by withdrawal of the patient dose from the vial while the contents are still hot.

We have yet to determine which of the above parameters is the culprit, or whether both are in fact necessary to

produce the appearance of the stomach in the resulting images. We are presently investigating this phenomenon to determine the specific cause.

Although the benefits of more rapid preparation and quality control of Cardiolite are tempting, particularly for patients in the acute setting, we urge caution in adopting procedures that differ from the description in the package insert.

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