

Nixon Will Undergo Tests to Evaluate Treatment

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LONG BEACH, Calif., Sept. 29—Former President Richard M. Nixon, who has spent six days receiving anticoagulation therapy in a hospital here, faces a week of tests to evaluate how well his phlebitis-damaged leg and a blood clot in his lung are responding to treatment.

According to Mr. Nixon's physician, the purpose of one of the tests is to determine if there is any possibility that his repeated bouts of phlebitis are linked to cancer.

When Mr. Nixon entered the Memorial Hospital Medical Center of Long Beach last Monday,

Dr. John C. Lungren, Mr. Nixon's physician, said he had no evidence that Mr. Nixon had developed a malignancy.

No Evidence of Cancer

Dr. Lungren included cancer among a long list of possible causes but he said he had no evidence that Mr. Nixon had developed a malignancy.

Plans for some of the tests had to be postponed until this week after Dr. Lungren reported that Mr. Nixon had unexpectedly been found to have an embolus (blood clot) and infarct (area of destroyed tissue) in his right lung. Another doc-

tor connected with Mr. Nixon's case later said there was an embolus but no infarct.

Mr. Nixon is receiving what doctors consider conventional anticoagulation therapy for his condition—heparin by vein and Coumadin by mouth. A medical source said that by tomorrow Dr. Lungren may stop the injections of heparin and maintain his patient on Coumadin pills.

Such a change in therapy would follow standard medical practice. It would make Mr. Nixon more comfortable by freeing his arm from being hooked up to an intravenous bottle.

Dr. Lungren is expected to repeat this week the ventilation-perfusion lung scans that detected Mr. Nixon's embolus.

Doctors say the follow-up comparative examination, a normal procedure, is an important test in a case such as Mr. Nixon's. The test could be valuable in showing whether or how well the embolus and area of possible infarction in the right upper lobe had healed. The test could also disclose whether Mr. Nixon had developed new emboli.

Also, the medical source said Dr. Lungren probably would conduct a special diagnostic X-ray test called a venogram. The test could determine where and in which veins the blood clots are situated in Mr. Nixon's phlebitis-damaged left leg.

The test might also be done on Mr. Nixon's right leg to determine whether unsuspected clots exist there.

In a venogram, a radiologist

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and Seek Possible Cause for Phlebitis

injects a radio-opaque chemical through a small vein in the front of the foot or ankle. By X-ray the radiologist documents the chemical's progress as it mixes with blood flowing through veins of the calf and thigh on its way to the heart.

Relations Noted

Information derived from both the venogram and lung scan tests could be important in treating Mr. Nixon should he have another pulmonary embolus, or blood clot in a lung, while on anticoagulation therapy. Surgery might then be indicated and Mr. Nixon's doctors would need to know the source of the pieces of clot that break away and float swiftly to the lung.

Mr. Nixon faces another set of tests, which could be done

during the week, to determine if a cancer is the underlying cause of his phlebitis.

The overwhelming majority of cases of phlebitis have causes other than cancer.

However, doctors have long recognized an association between cancer and blood clots. The clots for instance can be the first clue to an obscure cancer, and migratory phlebitis (repeated of phlebitis in different areas of the body) suggests that a diligent search be made for a hidden malignancy.

The cancer can be anywhere in the body, but has most commonly been found in the lung, pancreas, prostate or stomach. The incidence of cancer among phlebitis patients is not known, but reports in the medical liter-

ature generally indicate that is less than 6 per cent.

Dr. Lungren's statement led other doctors interviewed to presume that Mr. Nixon would swallow barium and have a barium enema among other studies to detect clues to a cancer in his bowel or internal organs.

Teachers Beat the System

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP)

—Two married teachers found a way to improve their financial situation. One of them, alternating each month, becomes "sick" for about 10 days and the other replaces him or her in addition to his regular work, getting paid for extra work, the Belgrade "Vecernje Novosti" (Evening News) reported.