

## Introduction

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There has been a rapid appearance on the market of many new techniques and instruments within the field of analyses near the patient. These systems have been named 'solid phase chemistry' systems or 'dry chemistry' systems, neither of these terms being perfect or without objections. In the organization group we have considered the terminology and finally ended up by calling the meeting "Patientnära analysverksamhet" (Analytical systems near the patient). Recently our colleagues in USA have created the term SPOT analyses (Satelite and Physician Office Testing), which is close to perfect but unfortunately not usable in Swedish.

You are all aware of the development which started by the introduction of urinary test strips in the 1940s and 1950s and has moved over the blood glucose strips and apparatus in the 1970s and to the present systems. Since a few years Seralyzer (Ames, Bayer) is on the Swedish market. We also have heard about the development of Ektachem (Kodak) and the activity of Boehringer Mannheim to develop a system working on whole blood (Reflotron). Both the Ektachem and the Reflotron system will be introduced on the Swedish market during the spring 1986. Several other companies are on their way into the market. The right time has thus come to bring this subject up within the Swedish Society for Clinical Chemistry.

The matter has already been taken up in England 1983 and in USA 1985. Similar meetings within clinical chemistry have been announced: the Scandinavian meeting in Odense, Denmark (August 1986), the African, Mediterranean and Near East meeting in Sevilla, Spain (September 1986) and the international meeting in Den Haag, The Netherlands (June 1987).

Considering techniques that are intended to be used near

the patient and that work with reagents in dried form different types can be recognized, some of which are listed in Table 1.

According to one marketing research institute (Robert S First Inc) the development within this field will continue in a powerful way and lead to a total sale in 1987 for the world in the order of 300 million dollars. (Table 2)

Considering the relative change the greatest increase will be found for USA and Japan during 1985. For Europe the greatest relative increase will appear during 1986.

We are thus in the initial stage of an explosion. Will this explosion develop into a large one with ravaging consequences to our subject? Is the explosion an atomic bomb or a fire cracker?

Table 1.

Principles used in some of the solid phase techniques. Some manufacturers and instruments are given.

<b>Impregnated fibre material</b>	
Ames, Bayer	Seralyzer
Boehringer-Mannheim	Reflotron
<b>Multilayered film</b>	
Kodak	Ektachem
Fuji	Dri Chem
<b>Ion selective electrode</b>	
Kodak	Ektachem
Sentech Medical Corp.	Chem Pro 1000
<b>Dried reagents in cuvette</b>	
Elf aquitaine	SAM
Leo	HemoCue

Table 2.

Expected sales of reagent and instruments in different parts of the world; in million dollars.

	1984	1985	1986	1987
USA	14.1	53.0	129.4	207.4
Japan	1.8	6.2	15.6	35.7
Europe	2.2	4.9	22.8	45.6
	18.1	64.1	167.7	288.8