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UPI

ANTENNA—Surveyor sent back this picture of its own antenna during the first 600-line television transmission from the moon. This photograph was taken from a television monitor at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, Calif.

MEDICINE

Drugs Help Leukemics

► **TWENTY-EIGHT** children with acute leukemia treated intermittently with huge doses of four anticancer drugs have remained alive up to 30 months after the start of therapy, the American Association for Cancer Research meeting in Denver was told.

Vincristine, prednisolone, 6-mercaptopurine and methotrexate were given on a three-stage 15-month schedule in the highest tolerated doses, Dr. Edward S. Henderson of the National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, Md., reported. Frequent transfusions of blood platelets were given to prevent hemorrhaging.

Thirty-five children with acute lymphocytic leukemia were treated, and 32 of them achieved a complete remission, or disappearance of all evidence of the disease within the first 22 days. The projected median duration of the original remission for all 35 children was more than 15 months, twice as long as that achieved in two previous studies at the institute when drug combinations were used for a shorter time.

Additions to efforts to demonstrate a virus-human leukemia link were reported by two scientists from Roswell Park Memorial Institute, New York

State's cancer research and treatment center in Buffalo.

Drs. David S. Yohn and James T. Grace Jr., used the immunofluorescence technique in a search for specific foreign proteins, or antigens, in white blood cells from leukemia patients.

The theory is that if a virus enters a white blood cell and causes leukemia, it will also cause the production of a new antigen in the cell that is not present in a normal uninfected cell.

The investigators were able through the appearance of a fluorescent green color to demonstrate a specific reaction between antibodies in rabbits and a material in the circulating white blood cells of more than 20% of acutely ill myelocytic leukemia patients.

However, whether a virus plays even an indirect role in increasing the concentrations of reacting material in leukemia patients is not yet known, the researchers said.

Dr. George E. Moore, director of the institute, reported on the culture of human leukemia cells outside the human body, making possible tests to determine the behavior of such cells.

• Science News, 89:456 June 11, 1966