

AN
INAUGURAL DISSERTATION
ON

Tumors

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BY

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To
Paul. F. Cree, M.D.,
Professor of surgery, in University
of Nashville. This thesis is respectf-
ully inscribed, as a testimony of
esteem for his exalted talents and
attainments, and as a token of
sincere regard for his character,
by the Author.

Tumors

The frequency with which tumors occur, the great varieties in their characters, and their important relations, local as well as constitutional; render their consideration one of great moment, and demand our serious consideration.

By a tumor is meant a circumscribed mass, growing in some tissue or organ of the body; and dependent on a morbid excess, or deviation of the nutrition of a part. The tumor thus formed, increases in size, by an inherent force of its own, irrespective of the growth of the system; and differs in some essentials, from the normal structure, and appearance of part in which it grows,

and normal form is departed from, in shape and size.

Tumors are divided for convenience of description, into Malignant, and Non-malignant or Benign, ~~and~~ of Non-malignant. They are strictly local, and generally resemble some structure of a part, and are with much propriety termed analogous.

They generally grow slowly, are more or less circumscribed, frequently enclosed in a cyst; and have no tendency to involve adjoining structures in their growth. If removed by operation they do not return. If left to nature, they attain to a great size, remain stationary, or atrophy, decay or necrose.

Whether they degenerate into malignant tumors, is a matter of dispute.

But when we take into consideration, that they are purely local, never return after an operation, never affecting the constitution, we are inclined to believe, they never degenerate into malignant tumors; unless the cancerous cachexy should spring up, during its progress, and develop itself in a benign tumor.

In their natural process of decay, they so closely resemble these, that mistakes have frequently been made, giving rise to a dispute on this point. Several varieties of non-malignant tumors. First Common Sarcoma or Fibrous tumor; is a firm fibrous mass, with but few blood vessels, and in structure is identical with that, of natural fibrous substance. It is formed, by the organization of Lymph:

free from pain, unless it presses
on some sensitive part. Grows
slowly, may attain a large size,
and create disturbance by its bulk.

The best treatment is extirpation
with the knife. 2nd Fatty tumors
occur in most every part of the
body; and generally originate,
without any assignable cause, may
be formed by pressure, or local
irritation; growing but slowly, are
either rounded oval or lobulated;
increase to large size, without
pain, occasionally ulcerate, or
inflamm - Several varieties of these
tumors, most common; is the Lipo-
ma, containing a mass of yellow
oily matter, and cellular tissue; 2nd
Cholesteatoma, consisting of crystall-
ine fat, contained in a cyst.

The safest and best treatment,
is early excision, with the knife.

3rd Encysted tumor or Wens - Most
frequent under the skin of the head;
they consist of a sac, containing va-
rious substances - These tumors are
painless, rounded, circumscribed,
and more or less moveable, accor-
ding to the fluidity of their contents.
They should be pierced with histon-
ry, and sac dissected out entire.

Malignant tumors differ widely
from these; they are local man-
ifestations of a constitutional disease,
characterized by an extreme veg-
etative luxuriance; and an exhub-
erant vitality. Growing with great
rapidity; and having a great ten-
dency to involve neighboring structures
in their growth.

They are heterologous formations, having no resemblance, or at most, only a very remote one, to the natural, normal tissues of the body. If removed by an operation, they are sure, to return; either in original site, or remote from it. These morbid products occur at all periods of life, in both sexes, and in nearly all the tissues and organs of the body. Their origin although enveloped in obscurity, is probably of an inflammatory nature, attended ~~with~~ with an altered condition of the blood, and an aberration of the nutritive function. They vary, in the rapidity of their growth; in their vascularity; and in the order of malignancy; may be arranged, as follows. 1st Encephaloid. 2nd Scirrhous. 3rd Melanosis. 4th Colloid. 5th Epithelial. All these varieties, consist essentially of the same elements; may differ in appearance

and in relative preponderance, of the different elements. Scirrhus usually begins, as a hard rounded tumor; subject to lancinating pain. Cartilaginous in consistency; cuts with creaking sound. At first its painless, circumscribed, and moveable: after an indefinite period, it becomes soft; forming an ulcer; which enlarges, in every direction; its edges thick and jagged. There is ill health from beginning; patient is languid and depressed; with no appetite. There is no characteristic sign, by which Scirrhus recognized. Slow in its progress, running its course in about ~~two~~ years. Generally occurs about age of 40, more frequent, in female, and situated in breast; generally occurring in ~~any~~ civilized nations. Treatment; the first thing generally spoken of, is extirpation with Knife.

Inasmuch, as the disease always returns, and as the internal organs may be involved, and the disease being thus aroused, to increased action. The operation itself, not unfrequently causing death, The knife as a general thing, must be abstained from. Pressure has sometimes been applied with good results. Mercury may be used in small quantities, to promote absorption. Iodide of arsenic may also be employed. Change of air, to countries, exempt from cancer. Low diet. And all kinds of palliative measures, should be adopted, to promote comfort of patient. The disease, almost always proving fatal, by extensive sloughing, pain and exhaustion. Encephaloid, commences as a soft, rounded tumor - Growing rapidly, owing

to its great vascularity - Subject to fits of throbbing pain - soon ulcerates, with large fungus shoot from it; subje to profuse hemorage -

The constitution suffers early, and severely - Most frequently found, in testicle, and kidney; occurring in young, and old subjects. Caused by some unknown constitutional peculiarity - Constitutional treatment, same as for scirrhus. Extirpation unless, as the malady is certain to return. Colloid consist, of a fibrous structure, and of a soft glue-like material. Occurring most frequently in stomach and omentum. Affecting the old - Grows slowly, with little disposition to ulcerate; the general health, remaining good.

Melanosis or Black Cancer, one of the rarer, and most peculiar of the heterologous formations. Is a homogeneous substance, very similar in structure, to a bronchial gland; of a black color, slightly unctuous - more frequent in old, than the young - cellular and adipose tissue, are most prone to this formation. The system is frequently affected with a melanotic diathesis - occurring in many organs, at some time - Expectoration, and strict attention to the general health, is the proper treatment. Epithelial cancer, occurring on skin and mucous membranes, most common seat in lower lip, tongue, external organs of generation. Most usually presents a tuberculated form, the effected part enlarges

with hard peel, the interior con-
taining, a firm white substance,
out of which, a white juice may
be pressed - After an indefinite
time, they soften and ulcerate, for-
ming an irregular scar; the ulce-
ration may destroy the morbid
tissue, and a firm cicatrix forms,
this however is unusual; the ulceration
most generally extends, beyond the
diseased part, and leads to disaster-
ous consequences - Slow in their
growth, most frequent in male.
Free extirpation is the best treatment,
they are not so prone to return,
being more local in their
origin, not affecting the
Constitution.