Discussion

Gastroenterologia 1956;86:374-375

Precancerous Gastropathies (Radiology)

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For such conditions as peptic ulcer, chronic gastritis, and benign epithelial neoplasms the conception of "precancer" may be accepted, at least from the clinical point of view. The frequency of malignant changes in these conditions differs. Thus the great frequency of malignant degeneration of polypoid growths and of adenoma has been demonstrated and can be statistically estimated. Peptic ulcer considered as a precancerous condition or factor is statistically much more questionable; in this case a single histological criterion is not sufficient. In a series of 3500 cases of carcinoma of the stomach the proved existence of a peptic ulcer preceding the development of cancer did not exceed 3%. Radiological study of a niche under medical treatment is essential in order to differentiate a healing from a chronic ulcer. It is necessary to distinguish between the gastric ulcer with malignant degeneration and the carcinoma which has become ulcerated.

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The clinical observations of cancer with a long intermittent history, and the greater frequency of cancer in patients with pernicious anaemia and of cancer arising after partial gastrectomy (not for carcinoma), are strong arguments supporting the view that gastritis is a factor in the development of cancer.

Chronic gastritis with the radiological appearance of persistent mucosal changes in the form of hypertrophy of the folds, of hyperplastic areas with granular surface (état mamelonné), and of polypoid images, is to be considered as a precursor of cancer, especially when present in the antral region.

Sullivan, W. A., Jr., A. P. Thal and O. H. Wangenstein: Gastroenterologia 86, 375, 1956

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Gastric Polyps: Their Diagnosis and Treatment

By W. A. SULLIVAN, Jr., A. P. THAL and O. H. WANGENSTEEN

During the last ten years a rather unique opportunity has been provided by the Department of Surgery at the University of Minnesota for an extremely close follow-up of a large asymptomatic group of patients with achlorhydria-hypochlor-hydria, or pernicious anemia. These patients are in the age group over 50 years of age. Each of these patients has had an x-ray examination of the stomach annually. During this period of time, the over-all observed incidence of cancer of the stomach within the group was 1.19%; polyps were observed in the stomach in 3.5% of the group. Patients with x-ray evidence of one or more polyps of the stomach were subjected to x-ray examination and/or gastroscopic examinations every three months for close evaluation of the lesions. Indications for operation were the following: Any suggestion of change in size or

character of the polyp; the presence of one or more polyps larger than two centimeters in diameter; or patients with pain or bleeding.

A total of 3516 asymptomatic achlorhydric-hypochlorhydric patients were seen, and 89 polyps of the stomach were found. In addition a group of 69 patients with symptomatic polyps is included in the study.

The operation performed consisted of simple polypectomy if frozen section of the lesion showed no malignancy and the gross appearance was consistent with a benign lesion, or partial resection in the case of multiple polyps.