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Follow-up of Tympanoplasties and Radical Ear-operations

G.A.M.

van der Molen

From the Department of Otorhinolaryngology, **Wilhelmina-Gasthuis**, University of Amsterdam (Head: Prof. Dr. L. B. W. Jongkees)

Author's address : Dr. G. A. M. v d. Molen, Universiteit van Amsterdam, Keel-, Neus- en Oorheelkundige Kliniek, **Wilhelmina-Gasthuis**, Amsterdam (Netherlands)

The results of tympanoplasties and radical ear-operations performed during 1961 in the Wilhelmina Gasthuis, Amsterdam, were investigated, especially as regards dry post-operative cavities.

111 ears were investigated, all of them about 1 year post-operatively. The indication in all cases was chronic otitis media, with or without complications. 11 surgeons were involved in the operations of the presented material.

Re-operations (23), cavity-reducing operations excluded, resulted in our material only in 30% dry cavities. Of the 88 ears, operated on only once, 68% became dry.

In this group the radical ear-operations became dry in 81%. The tympanoplasties type III and IV follow with respectively 72 % and 76% dry cavities, whereas the so called conservative radical operation resulted in only 50% of the cases, medium cavities in operation resulted in only 50% dry cavities.

Large cavities were dry in 75% of the cases, medium cavities in 60 %. The size of the external meatus did not seem to bear a clear effect upon the dryness of the cavity, nor did the micro-organism cultured from the ear before the operation. Ears dry before surgery was done, resulted in 80% dry cavities after 1 year.

I. It is emphatically pointed out that the presented material is too small to draw any statistically reliable conclusion from it.