

NODULAR ENDARTERITIS OF THE AORTA ABOUT THE
INTERCOSTAL ARTERIES.*

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Endarteritis is one of the most prominent and widespread reactions of the arterial tree. It is found in arteries of all sizes, and it is mainly through it that circulatory disturbances (referable to arterial disease) in different viscera are brought about. The variety of types of this disease have been repeatedly indicated (Virchow, Thoma, Friedemann, Jores, Chiari, Buerger), and although the disease process has been classified according to its gross character (diffuse, nodular, obliterating, thrombosing), this classification only takes cognizance of the fully developed lesion, when such changes as may readily be observed by the naked eye are recognized.

In endarteritis we must recognize a reaction which is very commonly seen on the intimal surface of the arteries, under most varied conditions. Not only have types of endarteritis been found associated with different systemic diseases (nephritis, Friedemann; lues, Heubner; acute infections, Simnit-sky), but it is a very frequent accompaniment of a variety of other reactions in the arteries themselves. In known inflammatory processes of the arterial wall, particularly in syphilis, as well as in periarterial tuberculosis, an endarteritis is the rule, while an endarteritic process overlying an area of fatty degeneration in the deep intima is also common. On the other hand, small plaques of chronic endarteritis may appear in a vessel without evidence of a periarterial or medial inflammation and in the absence of any processes of degeneration in the deep intima which could be suggested as the causative factor in stimulating the overgrowth of the superficial layers. Recognizing, therefore, that the overgrowth of the superficial intimal tissues may be a response to irritants of different kinds, it was determined to study a series of vessels in the

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