

## THE PATHOLOGY AND COMPLICATIONS OF HYDROCELE.

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The primary and ultimate derangement of function and finer structural changes which lead to hydrocele are not well understood.

Whether the serous fluid is the result of a low grade of local inflammation, or consecutive to pathological changes, is certainly a matter yet unsettled, although the weight of opinion is in favor of the former view.

The local changes in structure which we find, point to degenerative changes of an inflammatory origin; thus we have as an accumulation, an exudation similar to what we find in inflammatory effusions in other serous cavities, with all those shades, gradations witnessed in any cavity, the seat of inflammation.

In some instances, we have evidence of a primary plastic adhesion between the visceral and parietal surfaces within the vaginal tunic; while in others, the fluid is shut off in locules; from the development of fibrous partitions succeeding the deposition and lamination of organized lymph. This type of hydrocele is well described (Varieties of Hydrocele of the Tunica-vaginalis-testis, and some anomalous states of the Tunica-vaginalis, by Joseph Griffith, A.M., M.D., F.R.C.S. (*Journal of Anatomy and Physiology*, 1893-1894, p. 291).

He calls attention to the many apparent anomalies in the processus vaginalis and tunica-vaginalis-testis. He cites four cases which he carefully examined (*post mortem*) in men who suffered no inconvenience from them during life. The history of these cases points to their pathological rather than to their anatomic basis.

Humphrey, in Holmes' System of Surgery, mentions bags of water which were multiloculated and each pouch connected with the peritoneal cavity.

Griffiths believed that as these multiloculated hydroceles were usually small they seldom underwent treatment. These evidently belong to the same class designated by Berard as "Hydrocele-Diverticulaire," in some cases of which, by the injection of melted wax, he was enabled to trace them to the peritoneal cavity. He believed that they were formed either by a thinning and bulging