

which depends the transition of a benign epithelial tumor into a carcinoma.

Among the local causes which bring about such a malignant transformation may be enumerated trauma, prolonged or repeated irritation, and incomplete removal of the benign tumor by excision or the employment of caustics. Benign tumors on exposed surfaces of the body are most prone to become malignant, because they are most subjected to injuries and irritations which result in histologic changes favorable to the development and growth of carcinoma. From a scientific as well as a practical point of view, it is extremely important that by concerted action more light should be shed on the frequency with which benign epithelial tumors become the starting point of carcinoma and the influences which determine such transition.