

SURGICAL HINTS.

In women, severe pains about the breasts, back, or extremities are often due to abnormal conditions about the uterus and its appendages.

In strangulated hernia the pain complained of may be situated in the region of the umbilicus, and has more than once been mistaken for a disturbance due to intestinal colic.

Absence of pain does not always signify that you are not dealing with cancer of the stomach, since it has been discovered that about eight per cent. of such cases do not present this symptom.

Pain due to disturbance within the bladder is referred to the glans penis when a vesical calculus is at fault, to the region of the bladder itself when the latter is actually diseased, and to the perineum and rectum when the prostate is at fault. In women calculus often causes severe bearing-down pains, which may be mistaken for those due to uterine causes, and sometimes they have incontinence of urine.

When dressing an aseptic wound, it is well to explain to the patient your reasons for not disturbing it for a long time, or he will think himself neglected. The only reason for the removal of a dressing at an early date is the belief that sepsis may have occurred, or because it has been soaked through by an abundant discharge, or because it has become soiled by feces, urine, or vomited matter, or because it has become displaced, or because it causes pain by pressure, or because there is evidence of secondary hemorrhage.

Don't always blame your suture material whenever you get a so-called stitch abscess. The great majority of these are not at all due to the sutures, but to the fact that there has been an infection due to the existence of noxious organisms in the deeper cutaneous layers, which cannot always be removed by the most conscientious scrubbing. Careful washing with green soap and alcohol, followed by a large wet dressing of bichloride, applied the day before an operation, will greatly diminish the number of these generally miscalled stitch abscesses.

When using cocaine hypodermatically, it is well to boil the water immediately before using, and to inject the solution while still quite warm. This increases the anesthetic effect, besides insuring an aseptic injection. If normal saline solution be used instead of water for all hypodermatic injections the pain is much diminished.—*International Journal of Surgery.*