

the neighboring organs and tissues, radical operation is contradicted, as even when performed under the most favorable local surroundings and by the most skilled and dexterous operators no benefit results, the disease returning rapidly and metastasis to other organs being stimulated. There are good pathologists who claim that, where cancer occurs primarily in the cervix, even when a fairly early diagnosis has been made, return within a very short period is almost certain, irrespective of the thoroughness of the operation.

As opposed to this view, there are some operators of good repute who claim non-return of cancer of the cervix, ten years after removal by high amputation of the cervix. In such cases the operation was performed in the very earliest stages of the disease before any lymphatic involvement had taken place.

As a general rule we may say that nothing short of complete hysterectomy can be of any permanent benefit. It must of course be left to each individual operator whether he selects the vaginal, the abdominal or the combined vagino-abdominal route.

As for those cases where the disease has so far advanced as to preclude any hope of permanent benefit resulting, the thermo cautery and the electro cautery may be used with a view to removing a very offensive local condition and so rendering the few remaining years of the patient's life more comfortable and less offensive to herself and to her friends.

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