

VOLUMINOUS SARCOMA OF THE BULBO-PALPEBRAL CONJUNCTIVA.

BY

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The following observation seems to us to have a certain interest if we examine, either separately or collectively, the symptoms noticed in our little patient. Primary sarcoma of the bulbo-palpebral conjunctiva is indeed a comparatively rare affection in which the seriousness of the prognosis increases with the advance of the growth towards the orbit. Having for its origin the conjunctival chorion, or the adjacent connective tissue, the tumour in growing raises the oculo-palpebral mucous membrane which is stretched over it. In this case, the rapidity of the evolution of this unpigmented sarcoma, which in the short space of seven weeks developed in a child of six years of age, should especially attract our attention. Although neither the preauricular nor the cervical glands were enlarged, we nevertheless considered the condition as very serious, since the tumour had already begun to spread to the orbital vault and the capsule of Tenon, and as a previous microscopic examination of the growth had shown its sarcomatous nature. We did not hesitate, therefore, to sacrifice this still healthy eye in making the exenteration of the orbit.

Case report.—The child, T. R., aged six years, was brought to us at the Hôtel-Dieu on January 11th, 1908, suffering from a tumour of the right eye. According to his mother, the tumour showed itself a month previous, at which time she noticed that this eye was smaller than the other. The ptosis, having one day attracted her attention more particularly, she attempted to open the child's eye wider, and found that there was "a kind of reddish skin" between the eyeball and the upper eyelid. No other symptom had previously been noticed, and this tumour, which had a tendency toward hemorrhage, began from that time to secrete a sero-purulent liquid, which increased in proportion to the rapidity of its development.

Family history.—Our patient was one of nine children, one of whom had died at the age of three years of tubercular meningitis. The others were in good health. We found a certain tuberculous diathesis, but no trace of cancer.

Personal history.—The patient had a good constitution, was rather robust for his age, and had had no illness except a suppurating sebaceous cyst on the right side of the neck which had persisted intermittently for five years. However, the mother admitted that his respiration was not