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SURGICAL CLINIC OF S. W. GROSS, M. D.

REPORTED BY DR. NAPHEYS.

NEVUS.

Mary F., æt. 3 mos. This child has a vascular tumor situated over the acromion process of the left scapula, constituting what is known as nevus maturnus. It was noticed at birth, and was then as large as a small pea. It has increased rapidly in size, making now a mass as large as a walnut. It has a soft, spongy, compressible feel. The cutaneous capillaries are very much enlarged and dilated, giving a decidedly florid aspect to the tumor. There is also enlargement of the subcutaneous vessels, constituting thus a combination of nevus of the skin and of the areolar tissue. Inasmuch as the child is well-nourished, and the tumor is situated in the cutaneous tissue, it doubtless contains an admixture of fat, giving rise to a nevoid lipoma or nevoid fatty tumor. It is not an arterial tumor, otherwise it would pulsate, and impart to the hand a distinct vibratory thrill.

In the treatment of such tumors various measures may be resorted to. The base of the tumor may be transfixed by two needles at right angles, and a thread thrown around them. In the course of four or five days, the whole of the mass thus strangulated will fall off, and the surface afterward heal by the granulating process. Injections of irritating fluids may be used. Care should be exercised, however, in their employment, as the introduction of a single drop of nitric acid has been followed by instantaneous death, and Mr. Teale, of Leeds, has only recently reported a case in which the injection of one drop of the solution of perchloride of iron was followed by the same result. Other cases of a similar nature are on record. The solution of the subsulphate of iron (Monsel's salt) should be preferred for injection. It will produce immediate coagulation, and in the course of a few days the whole tumor will slough off, leaving however, an ugly scar. In exposed situations, therefore, injections should not be used. The employment of the actual cautery by means of heated needles inserted into the tumor is said to be attended with its rapid disappearance. In very small nevi, occurring in children who have not been vaccinated, the virus may be introduced into the tumor, thus setting up adhesive inflamation; or a small seton may be passed in.

Generally these tumors are surrounded by a capsule, more or less distinct, which does not consist of a new formation, but is produced by the condensation or thickening of the surrounding connective tissue. The presence of this envelop, therefore, permits of the enucleation of the morbid growth, and it is for this reason that excision will be resorted to in this case. Care will be taken not to cut into the tumor, but around it, and then enucleate it. This will require delicate dissection, the operation being much more troublesome than by ligation. Hemorrhage can be controlled very readily by means of the twisted suture. The operation is less objectionable than strangulation, particularly on the face, as it leaves less of a mark.

The child was placed under the influence of chloroform, and the operation of excision performed in the manner indicated. The little hemorrhage that occurred was effectually controlled by three points of the twisted suture. The tumor, when removed, was found to be made up of dilated vessels, and loaded with pellets of fat.

The child has a small cutaneous nevus on the buttock. This will be treated by the application of collodion, with the hope that the contraction of the collodion will cause the enlarged vessels to diminish and finally disappear.

FATTY TUMOR.

Eliza C., colored, æt. 23. This patient has a large pendulous tumor at the upper and outer side of right thigh. It was first noticed eight months ago. As it was then the size of a hen's egg, it may have been in existence for two months before it was observed. It is not attended with pain, and is very tolerant of rough manipulation. It is distinctly lobulated, freely movable upon the subjacent parts, and has a soft, doughy feel. There is no discoloration of the skin, nor enlargement of the superficial veins.

This is a lipoma or fatty tumor. The rapidity of its growth is rather characteristic of malignancy than otherwise. But the growth of fatty tumors is very capricious, although, as a rule, they increase slowly. She is desirous of having it removed, because it is in her way. These tumors sometimes inflame, and even become gangrenous under injury.

This is a benign, homologous tumor, consisting simply of excessive hypertrophy of the normal fat of the part, and contained in a distinct capsule or cyst, formed by the condensation of the surrounding connective tissue. The nourishment of such a tumor is extremely small, there being only one or two nutrient arteries entering at some point of the capsule. On account of its slight vascularity, it bleeds very little when excised, and its enucleation is very easy. If it were more deeply seated, it might be taken for a chronic abcess or cyst. In such a case the differential diagnosis could only be made by the introduction of an exploring needle.

The tumor being altogether superficial, lying immediately beneath the skin, and external to the fascia lata, has stretched the skin and made it very tense, so that if a simple incision were made, there would be a redundancy of integuments after its removal. An elliptical incision was therefore made, and the tumor readily enucleated. The operation was attended with the loss of very little blood.

It was formerly supposed that by the administration of liquor potassæ, it was possible to saponify the fat in such a tumor, and thus bring about its absorption. But no treatment other than by the knife is of any value.

SCIRRHUS OF THE BREAST.

Ellen M., æt. 60. This patient, seven years ago, fell down and struck her right side, breaking the third rib. Two and a half years after this injury a small tumor made its appearance over the seat of fracture. This growth, which was attended with sharp pain, but with no enlargement of the glands of the axilla, increased rapidly in size. Four months after it was first noticed it was removed, it being then about as large as a goose egg. Two years after