

Degrais, states that these satisfactory results have been confirmed by further experience, and that radium treatment has given marvellous results in inoperable cases and recurrences. In a case in which it was used for vaginal recurrence after hysterectomy the patient still remained free from recurrence six years after operation. He has observed a considerable difference in the susceptibility of different varieties of cancer to radium, the budding forms usually responding most favorably, whilst the infiltrating forms of cancer are much less susceptible.

Some time ago Rubens-Duval and Cheron, reported very satisfactory results in inoperable cancer of the cervix after treatment by ultra-penetrating radium rays. The malignant process retrogressed, ulcers healed, and the general condition improved to such an extent that operative removal became possible. Microscopically there was disintegration and destruction of the cancer cells.

In a more recent paper they report several cases of cancer of the uterus treated by radium, in the majority of which the diagnosis was confirmed both clinically and histologically. In a case in which the patient died fifteen months later from another disease no trace of malignancy could be discovered on post-mortem examination, and in several other cases the patients remained free from recurrence for two, three or four years.

Their experience indicates that in very extensive and advanced cases the improvement is usually of comparatively short duration, but that in more circumscribed cases complete fibrous transformation is generally obtained. They agree with Wickham and others in emphasizing the imperative necessity of performing hysterectomy immediately a growth becomes operable, and point out that even when the uterus appears microscopically to be perfectly free from cancer a focus of disease may still remain in the deeper tissues, and lead to subsequent recurrence of the growth. If radium does not result in increasing the mobility of the uterus, and thus rendering the case operable, the treatment should be persevered in until cicatrization is obtained.

Foveau de Courmelles, reports more than a hundred cases of inoperable cancer of the uterus, which he treated by the introduction of tubes containing radium into the interior of the tumor. The treatment invariably resulted in relief or disappearance of metrorrhagia, leucorrhœa, foetidity and pain, increase in mobility of the uterus, retrogression of exuberant buds, and sclerotic transformation of the tumor.

Abbe, who has had very extensive experience in this field, is absolutely certain that intensive irritation of a recurrence developing in the scar of an operation for uterine cancer results in the substitution of a healthy cicatrix for the cancerous tissue.