

Sometimes the pain partakes of an expulsive character and if the tumor engage the canal the pain resembles the uterine colic. With the exception of the conditions referred to, small fibroids are rarely ever painful. It is different, however, with those of larger volume : when located in the pelvis they harass the patient by interfering with contiguous organs, pressure upon the sacral plexus causing sciatica, etc. When located in the abdomen they are usually painful immediately preceding and during menstruation, resulting from tension and augmentation of their volume owing to the tumor partaking of the periodic pelvic congestion. This pain vanishes with the disappearance of the congestion and the temporary enlargement that the tumor has undergone subsides. Fibroids which develop rapidly are more painful than those of slow growth. In those cases in which the uterus is included in the growth—diffuse myoma—the pain is less than where there are many small tumors within the uterine wall, especially if masses grow towards the adnexa or between the broad ligament folds. The sensibility is increased by the development of cystic or myxomatous degeneration.

There is a period in the development of fibroids which may seriously affect the health of the patient—that which marks the beginning of a pseudo-cahexia. Repeated and exhausting hemorrhages may debilitate the patient to such an extent that life becomes burdensome. The pain may resemble that experienced in pelvic cancer and is exaggerated with each menstruation and notably so by the menopause. After this critical period the pains diminish or disappear for a time or altogether. All causes or influences which moderate or retard the development of fibromata act favorably upon the painful phenomena. In this way these growths may be affected by electricity, salines and quietude. On the contrary any inflammatory complication, salpingo-ovaritis, parametritis, with or without suppuration, may cause a sudden increase of pain.