

exists it is often possible to press the fluid from one tumor into another. On releasing the pressure the fluid at once comes back. The tumor may extend forward beneath Poupart's ligament and then backward along the course of the iliopsoas muscle as in our case.

In some cases fluctuation can be detected, but in others the tension is so marked or the cyst walls so thick that the tumor is supposed to be solid.

The skin is, as a rule, freely movable over these tumors provided inflammatory conditions are absent. Many of the tumors are painless, but when one remembers that the growth develops beneath the crural nerve and puts it on marked tension as in the case reported, it is but natural that any excessive movement of the hip-joint should be accompanied not only by local pain but also by pain referred to the knee.

Zuelzer found that the typical position of the leg in these cases is in abduction, outer rotation and slight flexion of hip. In this position there is naturally a minimum tension on crural nerve and iliopsoas muscle.

In these cases the hip-joint is, as a rule, perfectly normal, the great trochanter bears its normal relation and there is no shortening of the leg. In this way it is possible to exclude completely fracture of the neck of the femur, fluctuations and diseases of the hip. In my case there was three-quarters of an inch shortening. The joint itself was perfectly normal.

ETIOLOGY

The majority of these cases have followed some injury, although syphilis and rheumatism are also supposed to be contributing factors. In my case the connective-tissue walls of the cyst contained bone. This should occasion no surprise as this fibrous tissue is similar to and continuous with that forming the joint. The presence of large free foreign bodies in the sac is most unusual, but when we remember that small free cartilaginous bodies are not infrequently found in the knee-joint, it should not appear strange that a sac communicating with the hip-joint might contain similar products. The foreign bodies in the case reported, however, were exceptionally large.