

continue to term; if the tumor is in the neck of the uterus and of sufficient size to impede the progress of the head, it must be removed as already stated. Even when the tumor is in the body of the uterus the child should have some consideration, for if labor has commenced and ordinary means fail, a "Porro operation" may save both child and mother, or if the child is dead it may be removed by craniotomy.

Ovarian tumors, if large, give distress during pregnancy and by their bulk delay labor and diminish the effect of the pains; they, however, are not an element of great danger. It is the smaller ovarian tumors that give rise to trouble; for being likely to be overlooked during pregnancy, they may slip down and impede the delivery unless the tumor is so situated that its equator lies above the equator of the head of the child. It is thought that the pulling of the uterus on the ovarian ligament may have some effect in raising the tumor up when the labor commences.

If the head of the child is driven down upon the tumor the force of expulsion may have the effect of rupturing the sac of the tumor when its size would be sufficiently reduced to allow of delivery. Such ruptures occurring spontaneously usually take place into the peritoneal cavity, and normal fluid from an ovarian cyst is well tolerated by the peritoneum. It is only when some degenerative change has taken place in the fluid that it is hurtful.

With regard to the treatment of these cases: First of all, if the tumor is recognized before the onset of labor it should be removed by operation, and under favorable conditions whenever assistance of those skilled in such operations can be secured, an operation should be undertaken even if labor has commenced, for the danger of such an operation quickly done is not as much as it would be if the case were let alone to run the risk of such accidents as might occur during the labor.

What are the dangers that may be encountered during labor? Apart from obstruction there is the danger of a twisted pedicle producing strangulation and necrosis, or even a pedicle may be torn, in which case severe bleeding takes place. The production of an abortion has been advocated, but what good can result from such a procedure. Whilst it is true that it relieves the woman of the difficulty of carrying a child to term and of encountering the dangers of an obstructed delivery, it does not cure her of her trouble, and she may again become pregnant and have the same conditions present themselves.

I do not think that with the present methods the danger of doing an ovariectomy during pregnancy is much greater than at any other time. It is true that the operation may bring on an abortion, but even if it does the woman is at least cured of her