

than in a multipara. The descent of the fundus is rapid for the first few days, after which it becomes more and more gradual.

Failure of the fundus to fall on the day following confinement is very frequently found to be due to distended bladder, but if such occurs on subsequent days and continues for three or four days it will usually prove to be due to one of three of the causes of delayed involution referred to above, viz.: Retention of secundines or blood clot, septic infection of the endometrium, or laceration of the cervix.

The older the woman and the larger the number of children she has had, as a rule, the slower will be the fall of the fundus. Lactation has been found to impede rather than accelerate the progress of involution. Grave disturbances of health from intercurrent disease not necessarily connected with the pregnancy, will, of course, affect the removal of the excess of uterine tissue, just as it would influence other vital processes.

Failure of the fundus to descend for three or four days, or its sudden or gradual rise to a higher level than it had been, should lead one to make an investigation as to the cause, especially so if pulse rate or temperature be elevated. With elevated pulse and temperature it will probably be found to be septic in nature, and the sepsis will have extended to, or originated in, the endometrium.

Involution will not necessarily be interfered with, because there is sepsis, but only if the sepsis involves the uterus itself, causing local irritation or inflammation with the accompanying swelling and engorgement.

Cessation of involution for a few days with normal pulse rate and temperature, will, in a large percentage of the cases, be found to be due to laceration of the cervix.

One sees a chart every now and then, which apparently will not go according to rule, but just in this connection I may say that I have come to look with some suspicion upon measurements taken by anyone not familiar with the anatomy of the pelvis and abdomen. Too much should not be left to a nurse. They frequently produce the most extraordinary involution lines, which are quite incorrect. The following working rules have been drawn from a goodly number of carefully kept charts, upon which I base my remarks.