

Cancer of the cervix is not at first a painful disease either in the vegetative or ulcerative variety. The pain is modified by the location of the growth. That which has its origin upon the cervix and extends into the vagina is less painful than that which grows from the cervical canal or upon the internal os. It is the invasion of the pericervical zone that marks the beginning of the pain. We may say that this does not really happen until the is invaded, yet a woman may succumb to this disease who has only passed through one short and painful final stage.

Whatever may be the infiltration of the tissues in the first stage of cancer, the pain is very similar to that caused by chronic parametritis. In the latter stage the rectum and bladder becoming infiltrated react as though affected by chronic inflammation. The pain becomes more general and excessive in its paroxysms that nothing can alleviate it: even the nerve trunks are affected as well as the smaller branches, which explains the presence of pain in neighboring organs, upon the abdominal wall, lumbar regions and lower extremities.

Cancer of the body of the uterus is painless in its first stage. It is not until the broad ligaments become infiltrated that pain becomes prominent. The most special characteristic of cancer of the body of the uterus, especially when developed towards the fundus, is the existence of uterine colic appearing as exacerbations of a vague continual pain or sensation of tension. The colic is sometimes caused by painful evacuation of masses of blood clot, or by the slow progression of vegetative masses towards the os internum. The pain in cancer of the fundus does not occupy a prominent part in the symptomatic progression of the disease except in its last stage - the period of infiltration and compression of neighboring parts, when the appendages, bladder, small intestine and mesentery become affected.

F. PAIN IN UTERINE FIBROIDS.

In this condition the pain is variable, depending upon the location, size and method of evolution of the tumor and also upon the degree of sensitiveness and toleration upon the part of the patient. Fibroids of the cervix are painful, as we would expect knowing the extreme sensitiveness of this part, menstruation is rendered painful. Fibroids of the body of the uterus are less painful, and are frequently not suspected unless hemorrhage, which is their initial symptom, indicates their presence. Should the tumor be located in the horns of the uterus and grow towards the appendage, between the folds of the broad ligaments, the pain may be more appreciable. Also the pain becomes marked when an intramural fibroid grows towards the uterine cavity.