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## Original Articles

### THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF PRECANCEROUS LESIONS OF THE LOWER LIP

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The frequency of the occurrence of cancer of the lower lip and the importance of the recognition of malignant disease in the early stages of development makes the subject of this paper of great interest to the general practitioner. At the present time I feel that insufficient attention is given to the clinical study of cancer of the lower lip. My reason for this statement is the frequency in which patients with this malady fail to consult surgeons until the growth is in an advanced stage, with little chance of a permanent cure.

It may be stated that it is generally the fault of the patients; that the patients are usually informed of the condition long before they seek relief. This may be true, but I think that frequently general practitioners are not sufficiently emphatic in their advice to patients. They not infrequently exhibit an uncertainty about the diagnosis when the patient should be told that the condition is malignant, or if lesion is precancerous that it may lead to cancer.

There is another reason why patients do not seek early relief from cancer of the lip, and that is, that many patients are afraid of the "knife." This, according to my experience in practice, is very common. Many are willing to try any form of treatment other than that of removal by excision. Many of them try to obtain relief by the use of cancer pastes applied under the direction of some layman or laywoman. If this fails then later they may consult a surgeon.

