

Selected Articles

FACTS AND FIGURES OF END-RESULTS IN ONE HUNDRED CASES OF CONSERVATIVE OPERATIONS ON THE UTERINE APPENDAGES*

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One's point of view regarding any surgical procedure must be largely based on personal experience. A method which proves disastrous in the hands of one man and leads to its denunciation, may, under a more careful selection of cases, a keener perception of conditions present, and a more finished technique, give rise to brilliant results and unstinted praise.

The conception of the term "conservative," as applied to the conditions under discussion, may also vary with different operators and thus give rise to confusion. The definition accepted by the writer includes in its meaning all of those procedures directed to the ovaries and tubes in which the morbid process alone is removed, or so modified as to put these organs in the way of renewed physiologic health. This includes puncture and resection, but does not comprehend the breaking up of adhesions and the liberating of organs bound down by adventitious products.

From the above it is plainly evident that the question of benefits to be derived from conservative operations on the uterine appendages presents a problem difficult of solution, which can really be answered only to individual satisfaction.

If it is admitted that the ovaries have their place in the economy, not only as the source of ovulation for procreant purposes, but as purveyors of an internal secretion which is essential to the wellbeing of woman during the active period of life, then there can be no question as to the desirability and importance of preserving the whole or a part of these structures whenever the involving morbid process renders this possible. On the other hand, if it is assumed that beyond supplying the elements for the perpetuation of the race, the ovaries have no other function, their total ablation when diseased is clearly indicated. In the majority of cases of pelvic disease demanding operative intervention, the carrying out of conservative measures cannot be considered, the condition having either existed too long or being of such a nature as to prohibit the saving of even a fractional part of the organ

*From the Transactions of the American Gynecological Society, 1906.