

A CASE OF PRIMARY CANCER OF THE LIVER.¹

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The exceptional occurrence of a primary cancer of the liver with secondary involvement of the stomach may render the present case of some interest. While, however, we do not regard the condition as undoubtedly of hepatic origin, there seem nevertheless to be many points in favour of this view, while the growths found in the stomach and elsewhere seem to have been secondary.

The clinical notes on the case may be briefly summarized as follows: N. McL., aged 60 years, presented himself for treatment at the Royal Victoria Hospital complaining of weakness, diarrhoea and pain in the abdomen, chiefly localized in the region of the liver and stomach.

He had been failing in health for six months, and during the last four months he was unable to work. The pain complained of, as well as the abdominal swelling, had troubled him for about three months.

His history gave no evidence of gastric disease, further than recurring attacks of gastritis, following on excess in alcohol, to which he had been addicted for many years.

His condition was that of one extremely emaciated and feeble, with rough, dry skin. The abdomen was distended. There was ascites and some diarrhoea. Examination in the region of the liver showed that organ enlarged. Its margin was felt about 2½ inches below the normal margin in the mammary line. It was hard and through the thin abdominal wall its surface was felt to be uneven. There was no jaundice.

No tumour was palpable in the stomach, abdomen, testicles nor rectum.

Oedema of lower extremities developed and the pulmonary signs indicated oedema of the lungs.

The patient died of asthenia after a few days sojourn in the hospital.

The *autopsy*, performed 8 hours after death, gave the following results in brief:

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