

hemorrhages before the menopause are not so suspicious, but we must bear in mind the age incidence.

3. A sero-sanguinous discharge resembling greasy dish-water or beef brine, occurs in the very early stages of cancer of the cervix, and is rare in other conditions. This modified cervical discharge is characteristic.

Clinical Diagnosis:

The clinical diagnosis of uterine cancers depends upon two factors:

1. The presence of a neoplasm, either proliferation of infiltration.

2. Its degeneration. This leads to the characteristic friability of tissue, which is of great diagnostic value. This friability is recognized by the finger or the sound. This property of breaking up into small pieces under pressure of the finger is very characteristic, and the only other tissues, perhaps, showing it is a necrosing fibroid.

The great tendency to bleed is understood when one recalls the histological structure. Hence, bleeding is characteristic of all three varieties of uterine cancer. But one finds hemorrhages in erosions, endometritis, chronic metritis and polyps, although less, so that diagnosis cannot be based on bleeding alone. When both features of cancer are present, namely, neoplasm and degeneration, the diagnosis is easy, but if only one of these is present, difficulty arises. For example, there may be only proliferation; then inspection with speculum aids, while any infiltration is found on palpation, whilst degeneration is found by both methods.

Cancer of the vaginal portion may be seen and felt through the speculum in the Sims posture, whilst palpation of body cancer may require dilatation.

Vaginal portion:

Cancer here is the most easily diagnosed of all sites.

1. If of the polypoid variety, its surface is reddish in color and friable, that is, easily broken or crumbled down by finger or sound.

2. If of the flat kind, any bulging above the surface is suspicious.

3. If of the infiltrating kind, a nodule is felt, cartilaginous in consistence, and altering the shape of the vaginal portion. If, however, the mucous membrane over the lump is intact, then there is trouble, though the surface of the nodule may be purple in color and spotted by yellow pits due to the cancer nests.