

Should there be many large vessels about the capsule these can be peeled off, or if they tear they can be tied then: and there; as I said before, this proceeding makes the operation extra- instead of intracervical.

Having enucleated the cyst, others are searched for through the cavity left behind, and if found, treated in the same way; all the bleeding-points being secured, the cavity is packed with iodoform gauze, and the end of the strip of gauze allowed to protrude through the lower angle of the wound. I formerly used a drainage-tube, but the gauze acts as a good drain, and at the same time, by its pressure, arrests hæmorrhage; the skin wound is now sutured with sterilized horse-hair sutures. Where the drain protrudes, a suture of silkworm gut is introduced and left untied. Next day the wound is dressed, the gauze removed, and the opening closed with the silkworm-gut suture. The horse-hair is used, because it is cheap, elastic, easily sterilized, and is removed much more easily than silkworm gut.

In the first dressing I never wash out, or, in fact, use water or antiseptics for cleansing the wound; I merely apply sterilized or antiseptic dressings and place a bandage over them. I allow and even encourage the patients to get up on the second day, if so inclined; by doing so I believe they recover more quickly; at the end of the week I remove the stitches, and next day, in nearly all my cases, the patient is discharged. Occasionally after the operation I have seen a very rapid pulse and high temperature; but if the wound looks normal I pay no attention to these symptoms, and they seem to have no injurious effect on the course of the convalescence, being due probably to the disturbance of the gland at the time of operation.

It is extraordinary how rapidly healing takes place after these operations, even when a huge cyst has been removed. My patients have rarely remained in hospital more than a week; the vascularity of the parts and the fact that the cellular tissue planes are not interfered with might to some extent account for this.

Some of the smaller cysts seem to give more pain than the larger ones. In several cases patients have come for operation on account of the pain and discomfort caused by the tumor and not for dyspnœa and dysphagia.