

who was admitted to the Roosevelt Hospital in January, 1907. For six weeks previous to his admission he had suffered from pain between the shoulder, stiffness of the back, and a progressive loss of weight and strength. On examination, a large fluctuating swelling was found between the scapulæ over the spinous processes of the third and fourth dorsal vertebræ. On aspiration, a dark, chocolate-colored fluid was withdrawn. There was moderate rigidity of the dorsal spine, pain on motion, and marked tenderness over the swelling.

Under ether anesthesia, an incision 15 cm. in length, was made over the tumor, and the tissues divided until the abscess was reached, beneath the erector spinæ muscles. About four ounces of pus were evacuated. On further examination it was found that the spinous process of one of the vertebræ together with a portion of its lamina and the arch of an adjacent vertebra, were exposed and more or less necrotic. These were removed and the entire abscess cavity dissected out. The surrounding parts were then douched with 1-100 solution of formalin, and the extensive wound united by deep and superficial sutures. Practically no reaction followed the operation, and the wound healed without suppuration. Patient left hospital in about two weeks.

Three or four weeks later he returned, complaining of pain in the lumbar region, and upon examination a similar fluctuating tumor was found lying to the right of the upper three lumbar spines. A second operation, similar to the first, was performed, but healing was somewhat delayed by suppuration. Patient left hospital in three weeks.

Microscopical examination of the pus and tissues removed from both foci showed abundant blastomycetes. No cutaneous or other primary lesion could be found, and there was no evidence of lung involvement, or lesion of any other organ or tissue.

Dr. Brewer said this was the first case recorded of an apparently primary blastomycotic lesion of bone, and the only case of involvement of the spine in which improvement or cure had been noted.

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