

anaplasia takes place, and so one finds abnormal new growths; for example, squamous cell epithelium arising from columnar cells, as in the uterus, gall bladder, etc.

Again, the normal inter-cellular antagonism of the body seems not to hold for the anaplastic cells, that is, the vegetative or rapidly proliferating cells; hence, metastatic growths are possible; for example, the mother cells of the thyroid to bone, causing adenoma.

5. The origin and the growth are separate.
6. Exogenous causes; that is, chronic irritations are important predisposing agents.
7. Cancer may arise locally anywhere.
8. There may be more than one focus of origin in a circumscribed area.
9. The histology of cancer cells varies within wide limits.
10. Cancer cells are specialized cells.
11. Herédity certainly plays a part in the predisposition to cancer.

THE EARLY DIAGNOSIS OF UTERINE CANCER.

The early diagnosis of cancer of the uterus is one of the most important functions of the family physician, for it is to him the patient usually appeals for relief; hence, it is his bounden duty, by every means available, to make the diagnosis if possible. There are three sites for uterine cancer.

1. The vaginal portion, from the vaginal vault to the external os.
2. The cervical portion, from the external to the internal os.
3. The uterine body, from the internal os to the tubal orifices.

Now, cancer of the uterus develops in its mucous membrane, or immediately under the mucous membrane of its elements; that is, the glands of the cervix or the body. This classification is important, because, not only the clinical picture of the cancer, but the methods of diagnosis, are quite different, depending on the starting point and extension of the disease.

There are certain symptoms which one may designate by the name of prodromes of uterine cancer. These are:

1. Bleeding in coitus—due either to engorgement or friction. It is very common, and often the first symptom noted in cancer of the cervix, though it may occur in vascular erosion, endometritis or polyps. It is always a suspicious sign.
2. Metrorrhagia—after the menopause; that is, some months after the menopause. This symptom may occur in fibroids and polypoid disease, but it is most often due to cancer. Irregular