

explain why the veins collapse instead of becoming turgid upon the assumption by the patient of the recumbent posture.

4. Rectangular implantation of the left spermatic vein into the left renal vein.

Varicocele (15a) of the broad ligament, a condition in the female that bears some analogy to varicocele in the male, is also of more frequent occurrence on the left side. Kanavel and Miller say: "It is to be noted that of twelve cases of primary varicocele of the broad ligament, six occurred upon the left side alone, in six it was bilateral, in no case occurring upon the right side alone." (15b). Authors have sought to explain the greater frequency of left-sided varicocele of the broad ligament by the same reasons that are advanced to account for the more frequent occurrence of left-sided varicocele of the spermatic cord (15c).

In the differential diagnosis of varicocele, one only need to consider hernia, lipoma, hydrocele communicans. Varicocele may be confounded with an epiplocele because both have a cord-like arrangement.

Treatment.

If every case of varicocele is operated on indiscriminately, a fair percentage of patients will suffer permanent bodily harm, locally in the testis and generally in body and mind (13a and b). It is a matter of general knowledge that many varicocele operations are performed in the absence of positive indications. Charlatans have found it very lucrative to needlessly operate cases of imaginary varicocele and cases of very slight dilatation of the branches of the spermatic veins. One cannot too strongly condemn the subjection of a patient to a needless operation.

In the treatment of varicocele operative surgery has a legitimate and well-defined sphere of action. In this, as well as in other surgical conditions, we consider it important that operative indications and contra-indications be formulated with precision.

We are of the opinion that operative intervention is absolutely contra-indicated and not permissible: