

NOTES OF A CASE OF CANCER OF CÆCUM.*

By. A. B. ATHERTON, M. D., Fredericton, N. B.

J. S., aged 30. No cancer in near relatives. About May 1, 1901, began to be troubled with constipation, which grew worse for some months, and was accompanied with some discomfort at first and subsequently with more or less pain. For about a month previous to operation the constipation gave place to a looseness, with occasionally blood and mucus in stools. A lump was also felt on right side of abdomen. Dr. Wier, of Doaktown, then referred him to me.

He was quite anæmic and had lost considerable flesh, just how much he did not know. His usual weight was 137 pounds. On examination the belly was found rather full and somewhat tympanitic, except over a tumor the size of the fist, which could be felt to the right of the median line and somewhat below the umbilicus. It seemed fairly movable.

Operation. May 7, 1902. A five inch incision made along outer edge of rectus, and the tumor found occupying the cæcum. The bowel brought out and fillets of iodoform gauze and forceps used to clamp the ileum and transverse colon. More than a foot of bowel excised, beginning at about three inches from caput cæci, and ending at middle of transverse colon. Also several enlarged glands in neighborhood cut away along with surrounding tissues. Then ileum united to colon by mattress silk sutures passed through all the coats and tied inside bowel. These were fortified by a line of continuous silk sutures passed through the peritoneal coat, interrupted here and there by a single knot. After removal of iodoform gauze fillets and cleansing of peritoneal cavity, the abdominal wound was closed by through and through fish-gut sutures and dressed antiseptically, a strip of iodoform gauze being laid over line of union for drainage.

After a week or so the sutures were removed to give exit to discharge and some sloughing cellular tissue, and the patient left the hospital for home before the end of the sixth week with the wound healed and feeling very well. He was still quite anæmic however, and iron and arsenic was ordered.

He now, two months after operation, weighs 141 pounds, being four pounds more than normal, and has no abdominal pain and bowels are regular.

The tumor was quite hard on section, and ulcerated over its internal surface.

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