

**SYMPOSIUM
ON
KAPOSI'S
SARCOMA**

SYMPOSIUM ON KAPOSÍ'S SARCOMA

Monograph Number Two of the African Cancer Committee
of the International Union against Cancer

Edited by
Prof. LAUREN V. ACKERMAN and Prof. JAMES F. MURRAY



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INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

From the time of its inception the Africa Sub-Committee of the International Union Against Cancer has, under the active and persuasive Chairmanship of Prof. J. Gillman, sought to highlight the malignant tumours which are particularly frequent, or important, on the African continent.

As a first step in this field the Sub-Committee, under the editorship of Prof. J. N. P. Davies, published a monograph on primary carcinoma of the liver (*Acta Un. int. Cancr.* 17, 5-6, 1961). The monograph arose out of a symposium held in Kampala and Leopoldville at which invited experts joined with their colleagues in Africa to discuss hepatic cirrhosis and carcinoma as they occur in the African.

Encouraged by the success of this venture the U.I.C.C., at the request of Dr. H. L. Stewart, Chairman of the Geographical Pathology Committee, granted permission for a similar symposium to be held on Kaposi's sarcoma. The Symposium, again organized by the Sub-Committee, was held in Kampala in May 1961 at Makerere College under the Chairmanship of Prof. L. V. Ackerman.

The Symposium was attended by Prof. L. V. Ackerman (Chairman), Prof. A. Basset, Prof. B. J. P. Becker, Prof. R. Camain, Mr. J. Cook, Prof. J. N. P. Davies, Dr. R. Dorfman, Prof. G. Edington, Dr. D. B. Jelliffe, Dr. P. Keen, Dr. C. A. Linsell, Dr. F. Lothe, Prof. J. F. Murray (Secretary), Prof. J. J. Nickson, Dr. A. G. Oettlé, Dr. P. E. S. Palmer, Dr. S. R. Pattyn, Dr. M. Prates, Prof. F. Roulet, Prof. S. Rothman, Dr. G. L. Timms.

The expenses of the Symposium were met by generous grants from the Anna Fuller Foundation, The National Cancer Association of South Africa, The South African Institute for Medical Research, Pfizer Laboratories, United States National Academy of Sciences, the East African Research Foundation, and the Wellcome Trust.

During the five days over which the Symposium was conducted no formal papers were presented as these had already been circulated to all participants. Brief extracts of the papers with numerous illustrations were presented to the group and the active discussion which followed each section was taped and transcribed. This discussion was of tremendous help to the participants and new information gained from it has been added to the revised papers.

The sincere thanks of the Africa Sub-Committee are due to its parent Committee and to the U.I.C.C. for permitting the organisation of the Symposium, to the Dean and Professor of Pathology at Makerere College for making facilities available for the Symposium to be held in Kampala, to the various granting agencies who gave financial support, to the Editor and Board of ACTA who have facilitated early publication, to Prof. Ackerman, for accepting the invitation of the Sub-Committee to act as Chairman at the Symposium, and to Miss J. A. MacGill, Mrs. B. Wilson, Mr. R. Tunnicliffe and their assistants for carrying out the arduous duties of recording, transcribing and preparing for publication the various manuscripts and the discussion which followed them.



1. Moritz Kaposi (1837-1902). A previously unpublished photograph (through the courtesy of Paul E. Bechet, M.D., and Arthur C. Curtis, M.D.).

Fig. 1.

Reproduced from Bluefarb (7) with permission of the author and Charles C. Thomas, Springfield, Illinois.

SOME REMARKS ON MORICZ KAPOSI AND ON THE HISTORY OF KAPOSI'S SARCOMA

Stephen ROTHMAN

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It is probably a hopeless and useless endeavor to teach the correct pronunciation of the Hungarian name Kaposi to an English and French-speaking audience. Suffice it to say that the accent is on the first syllable as in all Hungarian words. The vowel «a» is short and pronounced as in the English word «wardrobe» and the vowel «o» as in the word «off». The consonant «s» should be pronounced as «sh» in English.

Kaposi (Fig. 1) was born Moricz Kohn in a small Hungarian town, Kaposvár on October 23, 1837, the son of a poor but learned employee of the Jewish community. Early in his career he changed his name to Kaposi. Changing a family name which does not sound Hungarian into a specifically Hungarian name was a widespread practice in those times and was called «magyarization». Names were favored which indicated the place of origin of the person, and the name Kaposi indicated that he hailed from Kaposvár which means the Burgh of Kapos. Those noblemen whose ancestors actually founded a community or built a castle on the hilltop of the community in centuries long past, carried the name of this community but with an adjectival *y* and not an *i* at the end of the word. Kaposi could not have changed his name into Kaposy with a *y* because this would have indicated nobility which he could not claim, but to change the name to Kaposi ending with an *i* was a simple matter of filling out a written application which cost him only half a forint (20 American cents) in stamps.

I am afraid that my distinguished colleague and friend Dr. L. J. A. Loewenthal in his memorandum to this Symposium was in error when he commented that the name «Kaposi» probably had something to do with the Capucine order of monks. The word for this order in Hungarian is written «Kapucinus» and is pronounced so differently that no Hungarian would ever try to connect the two words Kapu-

cinus and Kaposi in any way. «Capucin» derives, of course, from the Latin while Kapos is an ancient Hungarian word, actually the name of a small river flowing through Kaposvár.

Kaposi completed his high school, (Latin gymnasium) in the West-Hungarian city of Pozsony (now Bratislava in Czechoslovakia, the German name being Pressburg) and obtained admission to the Medical School of the University of Vienna. He graduated as an M.D. in 1861 at the then usual age of 24. From 1866 to 1869 he served as an assistant to Hebra, the first professor of dermatology at the University of Vienna, whose daughter he later married. After the usual terms as assistant professor and associate professor he was appointed to the chair of dermatology at the University in 1881, following the death of Hebra. He remained in this post until he died on March 6, 1902 (SHELLEY and CRISSEY) (1).

Physicians streamed to Vienna from all parts of the world to follow Kaposi's teaching. I was told by my own teachers that he was an unparalleled, didactically superb teacher. Patients, too, came to consult him from all over the world. Only those who came to see him because of their early patterned male baldness were disappointed. They turned around as soon as they saw him because he himself was as bald as a billiard ball.

I was told by one of Kaposi's pupils that in teaching dermatology he often covered the patient and showed only one single lesion of the eruption, requiring the candidate to recognize the disease on basis of the morphology of that lesion without being permitted to take a history or to examine the distribution of the lesions in their different developmental phases. According to modern views, of course, this does not constitute good teaching, but it illustrates the exquisite ability for observation of morphological minutiae. His descriptions were masterfully precise and always correlated to anatomy. In his original publication on Kaposi's sarcoma he reported on the autopsy of one case and on the specific involvement of larynx, liver, pylorus and small intestines.

* Operated by the University of Chicago for the United States Atomic Energy Commission, 950 East 59th Street, Chicago 37, Illinois.

Idiopathisches multiples Pigmentsarkom der Haut.

Von

Dr. Kaposi,

Docent an der Universität in Wien.

Mit Recht hebt Köbner in einem über Sarkome der Haut handelnden Aufsatz*) hervor, dass diese Neubildung auf der Haut an und für sich selten vorkommt, und bisher mehr Object anatomischer als klinischer Aufmerksamkeit gewesen ist. Dasselbst werden zwei Krankheitsfälle mitgetheilt, in deren erstem Hautsarkome in grosser Anzahl als metastatische Bildungen, wahrscheinlich von den Lymphdrüsen der Leistengegend her, entstanden waren, während im zweiten Falle die allgemeine Sarkomatosis von einem seit Kindheit bestandenen Naevus des linken Zeigefingers ausgegangen war, der primär in ein pigmentirtes Spindelzellensarkom sich umgewandelt hatte. Beide Fälle endigten innerhalb drei Jahren tödtlich. Die Section war in einem derselben gestattet worden.

Ich glaube eine Form des Pigmentsarkoms der Haut als eine *typisch-klinische* von denjenigen absondern zu können, welche unter allen Umständen als *consecutive* (metastatische) Eruptionen und demnach von den verschiedensten Primärherden ausgehen können, und deren Beispiele in den Fällen von Köbner gegeben sind.

Ich will die hier zu beschreibende Form deshalb als *idiopathisches multiples Pigmentsarkom* der Haut bezeichnen.

Als Grundlage für die Aufstellung dieser Form dienen mir *fünf* einschlägige Beobachtungen; dieselben sollen hier speciell mitgetheilt werden, nicht nur weil der Gegenstand neu, und Form und Verlauf der Krankheit von der grössten Wichtigkeit

*) Dieses Archiv 1869, 3. Heft, pag. 369.

Fig. 2.

Photograph of the first page of the original article of Kaposi (2). In the second paragraph the disease is said to be of multi-centric origin, not metastatic.

Persons who knew him well told me that like other great men Kaposi was not free of human weakness. He was a vain fellow emphasizing his own achievements on all occasions. He designated the entities described by him with the Latin suffix «mihi» meaning «belonging to me» as for instance «xeroderma pigmentosum mihi».

He also seemed to be stubborn and opinionated. Even after Koch's bacillus was demonstrated in lesions of lupus vulgaris he persisted in denying that lupus vulgaris was a special form of cutaneous tuberculosis because to him lupus did not show classical isolated tubercles.

The recognition as an independent entity of