The YEAR BOOK of

Cancer

1977

Compiled and Edited by RANDOLPH LEE CLARK RUSSELL W. CUMLEY,

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Introduction

The 160 members of the Year Book of Cancer editorial board have once again examined an enormous amount of oncologic literature—about 20,000 articles this year—in an effort to find those that best describe the progress being made on many fronts in the war against cancer. With great care, they have narrowed the list down to the 283 articles abstracted here. If space and time were not constraints, the hundreds of articles listed as additional reading could profitably have been abstracted, too.

As new data concerning cancer pour in, not all the questions are answered, but at least they can be stated more clearly and the answers can begin to take shape. While there is still disagreement, for example, on the best methods of treating patients who have various stages of breast cancer, the articles in the chapter on breast cancer indicate how multifaceted the attack is and how great the progress being made.

Another example of this multifaceted attack can be found in the chapter on endocrine tumors. The author of one article explains how echography is making possible more precise clinical diagnosis of thyroid disease. With this modality, "cold" thyroid nodules may be identified as benign cysts or solid, frequently malignant tumors. A second author discusses autotransplantation of parathyroid tissue to prevent

hypocalcemia after total thyroidectomy.

Another diagnostic breakthrough lies in the new applications researchers have found for several radiopharmaceuticals that have great affinity for malignant tissue. Gallium-67 citrate has definite value in detecting bronchogenic carcinomas and staging Hodgkin's disease and non-Hodgkin's lymphomas, while various chelates of bleomycin are useful in detecting adenocarcinoma of the gastrointestinal tract. In other articles, authors break no new ground, but review some aspect of the state of the art, such as the scientific basis for adjuvant therapy. New parameters of diagnosis and prognosis are to come from studies of the computerized axial tomographic scanner and biological markers.

Sometimes progress is made by reevaluating old assumptions, such as the belief that smoking is the major cause of lung cancer. One article suggests that industrial and environmental exposures may be equally culpable, while another cites genetic factors. Sometimes a previously unsuspected agent may be found to be potentially carcinogenic, as in the article on the possible relationship between cancer in operat-

ing room personnel and anesthetics.

The battle goes on. This volume records one year's many victories and occasional temporary setbacks. The eventual outcome lies in the future, but steady advances and new facets of knowledge are added on a continuing basis. Various types of systemic cancer are being cured in

an increasing number of patients. Generally these remissions and cures have been achieved by multimodal therapy and are far too few. Prevention of cancer is receiving much more attention both in research and in clinical application, but we are applying what little we do know in this area with very little success to date.

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Acknowledgments

In our efforts to bring to the reader the best current oncology literature in the shortest possible time, we have had to depend on the cooperation of hundreds of men and women. Once again, we have not been

disappointed.

This 21st volume of the Year Book of Cancer would not have been possible without the generous assistance of the members of the editorial board, who had to make very difficult decisions in the face of equally difficult deadlines. Similarly, the authors of the 283 articles abstracted here were unfailingly cooperative, and to them we owe our sincere thanks.

We also wish to acknowledge the assistance of those members of the staff of the University of Texas System Cancer Center M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute who gave so willingly of their time and knowledge. Our special thanks go to the editors and secretaries in the Publications Office of the Department of Information and Publications who worked long months compiling, editing, and typing the manuscript.

As in the past, the continued support of the William Heuermann

Fund is gratefully acknowledged.

R.L.C. R.W.C.

Brain and Nervous System

Olfactory Neuroblastoma: A Clinical Analysis of 17 Cases. Sidney Kadish, Max Goodman, and C. C. Wang¹ discuss the histories of 17 patients with olfactory neuroblastoma seen at Massachusetts General Hospital and Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary from 1941 to 1971. A system of pretherapy staging is proposed in which group A tumors are those limited to the nasal cavity; group B, those localized to the nasal cavity and paranasal sinuses; and group C, those that extend

beyond the nasal cavity and paranasal sinuses.

The presenting symptoms in groups A and B were the common, non-specific indicators of intranasal neoplasms, including unilateral nasal obstruction in 12 patients (70%), epistaxis in 7 (41%), sinus pain in 4 (24%), and rhinorrhea in 2 (12%). Group C patients had symptomatic evidence of disease extending beyond the nasal cavity and paranasal sinuses. Physical findings consisted of intranasal mass in groups A and B and orbital, nasopharyngeal, or cervical findings in group C. All patients had roentgenographic evidence of intranasal soft tissue mass. Six patients from groups B and C had paranasal soft tissue masses and 6 had evidence of bone destruction.

Treatment methods were varied, consisting of surgery, radiotherapy, or combinations of them. Of the 17 patients, 13 (76%) showed no evidence of disease for 3 or more years posttherapy. Of 7 patients in group A, all survived without disease, 5 following surgery, 1 after irradiation, and 1 after combined radiotherapy and surgery. Of 5 patients in group B, 4 were without disease, 2 following surgery and 2 following combined treatment. Of 5 patients in group C, only 2 survived 3 or more years, 1 treated by surgery and 1 by a combined regimen. Recurrent disease at the primary site occurred in 4 of 8 patients treated by surgery alone. Two were salvaged by radiotherapy and 2 by further surgical resection.

These data confirm the radioresponsiveness and radiocurability of the tumor. The authors advocate careful pretreatment staging. For patients in groups A and B, a course of preoperative megavoltage irradiation of 5000 rad delivered over 5-6 weeks followed by surgical resection is recommended. For group C patients, 6000-6500 rad in 7 weeks should be followed by surgery. Because of the low incidence of neck metastases (3 of 17 patients, or 18%), elective neck irradiation or

dissection does not appear to be indicated.

▶ [Olfactory neuroblastomas require the combined skills of surgeons and radiotherapists. The poor prognosis justifies an aggressive attack on this tumor. This article contains an excellent review of the subject, as well as data on a large personal series of cases. – Eds.] ◀

⁽¹⁾ Cancer 37:1571-1576, March, 1976.

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Papillary Meningioma: A Malignant Variant of Meningioma. Samuel K. Ludwin, Lucien J. Rubinstein, and Dorothy S. Russell² (Stanford Univ.) report on a series of 17 meningiomas, each characterized histologically by a papillary pattern. The papillary formations consisted of tumor cells arranged radially around fibrovascular cores. In some tumors, phosphotungstic acid hematoxylin-positive fibrils radiated around the blood vessels in the cores. In 15 of the cases the papillary pattern was associated with some of the well-known histologic variants of meningioma (Figs 1 and 2), whereas in the remaining 2 cases the pattern was predominantly papillary. The papillary pattern often appeared or became more prominent in the recurrences or metastases, suggesting that it represented a more aggressive phase in the evolution of the tumor.

In contrast to the usual low incidence of malignancy in meningiomas, all 17 cases had features of malignancy (high mitotic rate, local brain invasion, and distant metastases). In addition, 5 were of the angioblastic type, as opposed to the reported incidence of 4% of angioblastic meningiomas among meningiomas as a whole. This variant is thought to be more aggressive than other variants of meningioma. Of the patients, 59% developed recurrences, as opposed to 21% of meningioma patients as a whole. In addition, a considerably higher number of cases developed distant metastases than would have been expected from the incidence of metastases in meningiomas as a whole.

Fig 1 (left). – Papillary pattern in a meningioma that showed elsewhere the histologic picture of an angioblastic meningioma. Hematoxylin-eosin; reduced from $\times 225$.

Fig 2 (right). - Papillary perivascular pattern in a meningioma that showed elsewhere the histologic picture of a syncytial meningioma. Hematoxylin-eosin; reduced from ×225.

(Courtesy of Ludwin, S. K., et al.: Cancer 36:1363-1373, October, 1975.)

