

Naide, M., and Sayen, A.: Venospasm: Its Part in Producing the Clinical Picture of Raynaud's Disease. Arch. Int. Med. 77: 16 (Jan.) 1946.

Observation of 10 patients with Raynaud's disease and four patients with Raynaud's phenomenon has disclosed evidence that spasm of the veins as well as of the arteries is present in the majority of these patients. Arterial spasm alone cannot explain the clinical picture in most patients. In some patients venospasm may predominate over arterial spasm. The clinical features vary in each patient depending on which part of the vascular tree is predominantly involved in the abnormal vasoconstriction. It is suggested that in some patients with Raynaud's disease the clinical picture is influenced by an anatomic disproportion in capacity between arterial and venous flow. On the basis of clinical observations of these patients during the test for basal vascular tone, a classification has been made to clarify the terms Raynaud's disease and Raynaud's phenomenon. Raynaud's disease is not rare. The milder forms are fairly common and do not deserve the serious connotation usually associated with the diagnosis. Reassurance is an important part of treatment. A patient with so-called "cold allergy" was found to develop venospasm on exposure to cold without developing arterial constriction, which explained the development of cyanosis and marked swelling without blanching.

AUTHORS.

Peet, M. M., and Isberg, E. M.: The Surgical Treatment of Arterial Hypertension. J. A. M. A. 130: 467 (Feb. 23) 1946.

Since the first bilateral supradiaphragmatic splanchnicectomy and lower dorsal sympathetic ganglionectomy was performed by Peet in 1933, more than 1,500 patients with essential hypertension have received this treatment at the Hospital of the University of Michigan. The authors report the results of this treatment in 437 patients followed for five to twelve years. Two hundred and fifty-one patients, or 57.5 per cent of the series, were living five to eleven years after operation. At the end of five postoperative years 64.8 per cent of the entire series were alive. The hypertensive state in 82 per cent of the patients in this series had already progressed to serious organic disease prior to operation. Fifty-six per cent of all the men had died, while the mortality among the women was only 30 per cent. Ninety-five per cent of hypertensive patients who showed no preoperative evidence of cardiac, cerebrovascular, or renal involvement were living five to eleven years after operation.

Approximately one-third of all patients who manifested preoperative evidence of organic heart disease, cerebrovascular disease, or impaired kidney function did not survive five to eleven years. Nineteen per cent of 112 patients with preoperative malignant hypertension were living five to eleven years later.

Fifty-one patients had maintained normal blood pressure levels and 28 showed no evidence whatever of hypertensive disease five to eleven years after operation. Significant reductions in blood pressure, complete and definite symptomatic relief, improvement of eye grounds, and improvement of abnormal electrocardiograms, cardiac enlargement, and kidney concentrating ability had been maintained for five to eleven postoperative years in a remarkable percentage of patients. Sixty per cent of patients who had previous cerebral accidents suffered no recurrence during the long postoperative period.

Surgical treatment is a measure to be considered in the management of every case of essential hypertension but to be utilized only when indicated. Evidence of progression and activity of hypertensive disease constitutes indication for surgical treatment.

NAIDE.

Loewe, L., Rosenblatt, P., and Hirsch, E.: Venous Thromboembolic Disease. J. A. M. A. 130: 386 (Feb. 16) 1946.

One hundred and twenty-five cases of thrombophlebitis and/or phlebothrombosis treated by the subcutaneous administration of heparin in the Pitkin menstruum are reported. Pitkin's menstruum consists of 18 per cent gelatin, 8 per cent dextrose, 0.5 per cent glacial acetic acid, and sufficient distilled water to make 100 per cent. Each ampule contains 200