

MEDICINE

Hope To Cure Fatal Tumor

Prospects for cure of a cancer-like disease known as lymphoid tumor are better. May be successfully treated if diagnosed early. X-rays shrink the tumor and relieve pain.

► PROSPECTS for cure of lymphoid tumors, which are a kind of cancer, are better than physicians and X-ray specialists have generally believed, Drs. Hugh F. Hare, William C. Mulray and C. Franklin Sornberger of the Lahey Clinic declared at the meeting in Boston of the Radiological Society of North America.

But the doctors stressed that early diagnosis and treatment are essential for successful treatment.

If untreated, lymphoid tumors invariably kill the patient.

The condition starts insidiously. Enlargement of the lymph nodes, or glands, of the neck are the first symptom. This frequently follows a cold or similar infection, but the swellings do not go down entirely, or may remain the same size. Lymph nodes are found in many parts of the body besides the neck. They occur in the armpits, around the roots of the lungs, around the intestines and in the groins. Any of these may be involved, and the disease may become generalized before the diagnosis of lymphoid tumor is considered.

"Up to the present, our attitude toward the treatment of this disease has been one of looking upon it as hopeless rather than curable," the doctors stated. "This feeling of hopelessness has spread not only to the general practitioner and the laity but also to the specialist.

"Recent reports indicate that a different situation is present. We believe that some of these patients may be cured and many of them lead a happy and healthy life for a period of five years and more."

Of 181 patients seen during the years 1934 to 1942 inclusive, 52, or 29%, were living and well at the end of five years and of 21 patients followed for a 10-year period, 17 remained alive and well.

No other tumor, the doctors said, responds as quickly as lymphoid tumor to X-ray treatment. The X-ray treatment helps shrink the tumor and relieve pain.

Stressing the importance of early diagnosis and X-ray treatment, the doctors pointed to records showing that about 16 months elapsed from the time the disease started to the first treatment. Loss of weight, fatigue, fever, weakness and pain are late, not early, symptoms.

"When it is considered that 50% of patients suffering with this disease are dead within one year following establishment of a diagnosis, it is realized how many patients come for treatment far too late."

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MEDICINE

Control of Bleeding Foreseen with New Methods

► EMERGENCY measures which saved patients who were bleeding to death from the esophagus, or gullet, may give doctors a better way to control this condition, it appears from the report of a group of doctors in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (Nov. 8).

The condition is a frequent cause of death in patients with cirrhosis of the liver. Known medically as esophageal varicosity, it is like varicose veins in the legs, occurring in veins of the esophagus instead of the legs.

Elevated blood pressure in blood vessels of the liver and spleen produces the swollen veins in the esophagus, which is the food channel leading from the mouth

to the stomach. Until the present, no method has successfully controlled hemorrhage of these distended veins.

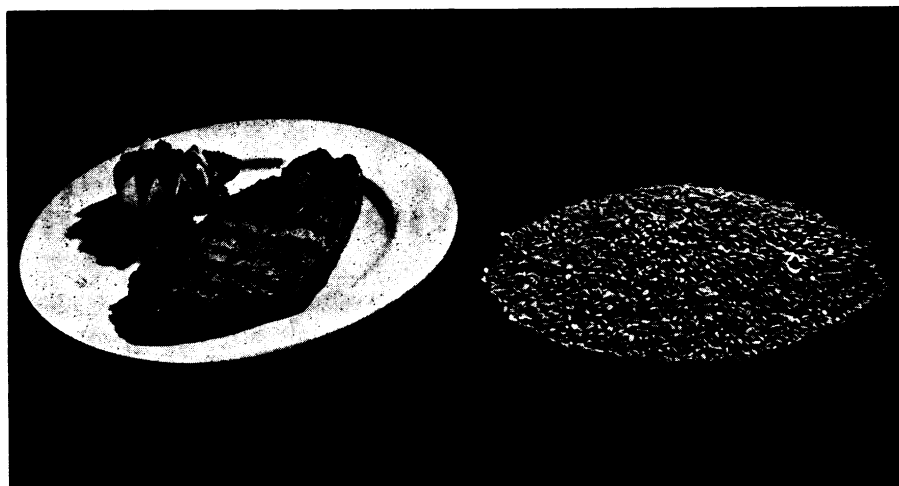
Drs. Max L. Som and John H. Garlock, of Mount Sinai Hospital, New York, discovered that by surgically opening the mediastinum, a membranous cavity situated between the left and right lungs, and packing this area, irritation resulted which established a secondary circulation in new deeper vein channels more capable of carrying the elevated blood pressure.

With this surgical treatment, one patient has been free from bleeding six years and another for 14 months.

Another group of doctors, L. G. Rowntree, E. F. Zimmerman, M. H. Todd and John Ajac of Miami Beach, Fla., saved the life of a patient bleeding to death by devising a latex bag which they inserted into the esophagus and inflated at the site of the hemorrhage. This internal pack was left in place for four days without any discomfort to the patient and completely controlled the bleeding. The patient's health improved and although he had a recurrence of the bleeding within a month, it was immediately controlled by this method.

Success with this patient led the physicians to employ the same method of control on another patient at the Nautilus Hospital of the Veterans' Administration, whose esophagus bleeding could not be stopped by other measures. The tube was again inserted and apparently helped this patient to recovery also.

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CONSERVING GRAIN—Each portion of fish served in place of grain-fed meat saves the equivalent of one pound of wheat as illustrated above. According to the Department of Agriculture it takes the following quantities of grain to make one pound of edible meat: Beef, 2½ pounds; Lamb, 1½ pounds; Pork 5½ pounds; Poultry, 5 pounds.