

## SURGERY

# Bad Bladder Replaced

New operative techniques, such as replacing a diseased bladder with part of the stomach, and the use of plastics have given the surgeon new ways to prolong human life.

► THE BOTTOM part of the human stomach has successfully replaced a cancerous bladder, Dr. Edwin S. Sinaiko of Stritch School of Medicine, Loyola University, Chicago, reported to the clinical congress of the American College of Surgeons meeting in Atlantic City, N. J.

The novel operation was performed on a 38-year-old housewife with advanced cancer of the urinary bladder. The cancer had blocked the openings leading to the kidneys and created internal bleeding and anemia.

A pouch of the stomach was cut away and resewn into the artificial bladder. The ureters, tubes running from the kidneys to the bladder, were detached from the bladder and reconnected to the stomach pouch.

The stomach pouch gets along well in its new role as a bladder and the remaining portion of the stomach has continued to function satisfactorily, Dr. Sinaiko reported.

The patient has no eating or digestion problems and gained eight pounds in six months.

"The operation may find a useful place in paraplegia with loss of sphincter (muscle) control of the urine. It may be useful whenever the true bladder must be sacrificed," Dr. Sinaiko concluded.

## Plastic Protects Tissues

► A PLASTIC spray that strengthens stroke-causing blood vessels in the brain was reported by Drs. Bertram Selverstone and Norman Ronis, Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston, Mass., to surgeons at the congress.

The spray was designed to put a hard shell around swollen pockets, called aneurysms, in the blood vessels which form when the vessel wall is weak and begins to bulge under pressure.

If the bulge breaks, it can cause a brain stroke or instant death, depending on its size and location.

Surgeons now try to remove the bubble at its neck but this is sometimes impossible to do and it must then remain as an ever present hazard.

The plastic is put on in a fine spray from an artist's airbrush and the technique makes use of two different plastic materials. The first is an artificial latex which will adhere to the moist surface of the artery and form a dry covering. Then a plastic resin is applied over the dry film in as many layers as desired.

The plastic coating is non-toxic to the body and may be useful in other fields, the surgeons said. It has been considered for connecting blood vessels and for protecting cut, raw, denuded or burned areas.

The plastic seal was used to strengthen the wall of the aorta in an 18-year-old boy after heart surgery, and it eliminated the need for a complete tissue graft. The plastic spray has also been used to seal back a bone flap from the skull that was removed for brain surgery.

## Built-In Food Supply

► A "BUILT-IN" food dispenser that can be sewed up inside surgical patients to give them added nourishment was also reported to the clinical congress.

The food dispenser is a length of cello-

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phane tubing that is filled with a solution of glucose and amino acids and inserted into the intestines for gradual release of its contents.

The fluid passes through the cellophane membrane at about the same rate the intestines can absorb it, Drs. Dean T. Gettler and Paul R. Schloerb, University of Kansas, Kansas City, reported.

The feeding technique has worked successfully in animals and is being investigated as a treatment for human patients with uremia.

Many uremic patients cannot be properly nourished by mouth because of frequent vomiting.

Science News Letter, October 26, 1957

## ● RADIO

November 2-23, 1957

"Adventures in Science" with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over the CBS Radio network will not be broadcast November 2-23, inclusive, due to scheduled football games. "Adventures in Science" will resume at its regular time Saturday, November 30. Check your local CBS station.

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