RADIUM THERAPY IN CANCER AT THE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, NEW YORK (FIRST REPORT: 1915-1916)

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Radium therapy in cancer at the Memorial Hospital, New York (First report: 1915-1916) by Henry H. Janeway

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HENRY H. JANEWAY

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RADIUM THERAPY IN CANCER

AT THE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL NEW YORK

(FIRST REPORT: 1915-1916).

HENRY H. JANEWAY, M.D.

WITH THE DISCUSSION OF TREATMENT OF CANCER OF THE BLADDER AND PROSTATE BY BENJAMIN S. BARRINGER, M. D.

AND AN INTRODUCTION UPON THE PHYSICS OF RADIUM BY GIOACCHINO FAILLA, E. E., A. M.



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PREFACE

The somewhat detailed character of the present report has been determined by the urgent need of more accurate descriptions of the methods of applying radium to malignant tumors in different situations. The great majority of available reports indicate the total amount of radium employed, but details regarding concentration of radium to the unit of surface, the exact nature of filtration, the exact periods of repeated applications, and the successive steps of the therapeutic result, are incompletely presented or entirely omitted. Consequently it has been impossible for the reader to duplicate the method or to obtain the necessary information to guide him in his own work. Unfavorable results are experienced in all large radium clinics, but under exactly what circumstances such results may be expected, or how they may be avoided, has seldom been stated. Such information, it is believed, may be obtained from many of the case records of the present report.

It has become more and more apparent that the successful use of radium in cancer, requires careful consideration of each particular type of the disease in each organ as separate problems, in which different methods must be devised and different results expected. Hence the various forms of cancer are separately considered, and the indications, methods, complications, and results are given briefly for each.

In our experience the use of radium emanation has greatly increased the efficiency of radium therapy as compared to the use of the metal itself.

For a satisfactory understanding of these advantages as well as the principles of application and filtration an aequaintance with the physics of radium is indispensable. It has therefore been deemed advisable to include in this report an introduction explaining in detail the physical considerations relative to the therapeutic application of radium.

The author desires to express his indebtedness to Dr. Samuel Brown, to whose efficient services in making and changing the applicators and in following the patients much of the success of this work is due.

CONTENTS

CHAPT		2002207	Dee	00140 P.M			10.10.1	PAGE	
I.	PHYSICAL CONSIDER TION OF RADIUM.								
	1. 50	, DY				P AllaiA,	E.E.	11	
		- 24	÷.	18	•		•	. 11	
	Introductory .	•	114		*	•	•	22	
	Roentgen Rays .	4		9	*	•			
	Radio-activity .	•	1.1	•	•	*	•	. 18	
	Collection of Radiu		anati	on			s - 3	23	
	Radio-active Deposi			2	8	*	•	25	
	Properties of the R			98	35	(*)	÷ 1	. 27	
	Absorption of Radia		10			*	8 8	. 29	
	Secondary Radiatio		- 13	<u>.</u>			× ->	31	
	Chemical Actions	•	34 	3 4		•	¥ 8	33	
	Therapeutic Uses			1		а;	¥ 3	34	
	Applicators		e ⁶ es		5 <u>6</u>		9 - 3	35	
	Radiation from Typ	pical 2	Appli	cator	s.		8	36	
	"Dosage"	93		-				46	
Π.	RADIUM THERAPY IN CANCER. BY HENRY H. JANE-								
	way, M.D.			. t		. Sume	ð	53	
	Principles and Methods of Application of Radium								
	to Cancer .	3 A	÷.	5 8			•	. 53	
		. •	e ** -	•			+	69	
	The Results of Tree		ι.			•		82	
	Carcinoma of the			1	•		÷ ;	82	
	Technic of Appli	cation	of R	adim	m to	Lip	5 1	89	
	Nasal Mucosa .		2	2			s - 1	89	
	Cancer of the Su	European	Max	illa		*	• •	90	
	Cancer of the Ch						8 8	100	
	Cancer of the Inf	Contraction of the second s		22.00	×		÷	108	
	Cancer of the Fl						. i	119	
	Cancer of the Sof		ite, T	onsil	and	Phary	nx .	122	
	Cancer of the Tor	igue	100		22			134	
	Cancer of the La	rynx	1			er e		149	

7

CONTENTS

CHAPTE	8						PAGE
	Cancer of the Esophagus		140	•			156
	Cancer of the Stomach .	2.42	1.442				165
	Cancer of the Rectum .		33.63	4			168
	Cancer of the Penis and V	ulva	1241	8	1.12		177
	Cancer of the Uterus .	- 25				1	177
	Carcinoma of Breast .					ः 	184
	Parotid Tumors	•	1992.0 - D - D-	55 1.401		 	190
	Cancer of the Cervical Ly	mph]			21		194
	Teratoid Carcinoma of Ter	10107-0010-000	10.000.000 10.00		- 10 14		196
	Cancer of the Skin		0.00			- Č	201
	Sarcoma				÷.		212
	The Treatment of Glioma						221
	Nevi		-				222
	General Conclusions	2.20	5.0	0		- ÷	222
III.	RADIUM TREATMENT OF BLAI	DER A	ND PRO	STA	ric C	AR-	
	CINOMA. BY B. S. BARRIN	NGER,	M.D.				227
	Bladder Carcínoma	10 - 00	10.00000000000000000000000000000000000	36 6.			227
	Application of Radium in				oma		228
	Effect of Radium on Blad						228
		1.4				- 22	229
	Indications for the Use of				1	- 2	233
	Carcinoma of the Prostate .			3	-		233
	Summary of Prostatic Ca		838		89	8	237

8

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

FIGUE	38									PAGE
1.	Curves Sho from an J of Lead									40
2.	Curves Sho Intensity	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·								10
	Tube									42
3.	Curves Sho Intensity									
	Surround	ed by 2	Mm. o	f Lea	d	•		۰.	٠	43
4.	Diagram Sl Proper I									
1227	Skin	* *	2	:	5 2	12	3972	50 5	17	49
5.	Diagram	× •	*	9 4 3 - 3	0.0	9 0 2	G•	8		66
6,	Diagram		•		•		•	•		66
7.	Diagram	× ×	*	*		1.00	()		10	67
8.	Diagram				÷1					67
9.	Diagram									68
10.	Showing Va	rious Fo	rms o	f Tub	cs a	ad Si	ver !	Plaq	ues	70
11.	Applicators	Made of	E Dent	al Co	mpo	und				71
12.	Applicators ing Lesio and the	ns of th								72
13.		생각 변경했다		, Dant	ia	(•)		- DI		14
10.	Showing an upon the				ar 01	_		n 11	ace	73
14.	Showing th which Ma a Surface	ny Ema	nation							74
15.	An Improv Filtered Surface		on at							75
	wat watto	15 S								

9