PREPARATION OF PATIENTS REFERRED TO MDAH

Very often patients referred to M. D. Anderson Hospital arrive with the misconception that they will be immediately admitted to a hospital bed or ward. Referring physicians are asked to assist their patients by making clear to them that their referral is for clinical examination, that they will be on an outpatient basis, and must maintain themselves during the work-up period.

In cases where financial difficulty is anticipated by the physician or expressed by the patient, the referring physician should recommend that the patient contact some local agency which will be able to assist in the expense to be incurred. The Medical Social Service Department at MDAH estimates that 80 per cent of the patients arrive without understanding the outpatient classification, that 35 to 40 per cent of the patients arrive without sufficient funds, and that about 15 per cent of the patients arrive without transportation home. In many cases, the Social Service Department is able to secure funds through various state agencies, but most often must contact agencies on the local level for aid. The referring physician can greatly help his patient in the adjustment by explaining that approximately $30 is required for room, meals and transportation during the clinical work-up period, and unless designated otherwise they are accepted only as out-patients.

REGISTERS AS PATIENT.

The patient was registered in the out patient clinic at MDAH. The patient, has been referred by Dr. O. E. Hall of Cuero. The patient, after a biopsy and diagnosis, was referred to the hospital for additional treatment.

CLINICAL SYMPOSIUM ON BREAST CARCINOMA

The first annual clinical symposium on carcinoma was held November 9 and 10 at MDAH. The topic of the symposium, Management of Carcinoma of the Breast, was discussed by staff members and two guest speakers, Dr. Melvin A. Casberg, Vice President in Charge of Medical Affairs of The University of Texas, and Dr. Ian Macdonald, Associate Clinical Professor of Surgery at the Medical School of The University of California, Los Angeles.

A review of the lymphatics of the breast was presented, and explanation of classification of a Stage I breast cancer made.

The treatment policies in force at MDAH were reviewed in the light of the present knowledge of the mechanism and pathways of spread of this type of carcinoma. Insofar as securing cure is concerned the choice of treatment is limited to one of two methods, namely surgery or radiotherapy, or to one of the several combinations of these methods. The scheme of treatment selected must be applicable to four areas—the breast, the axilla, the supraclavicular nodes, and the internal mammary chain on the same side.

The hormonal management of late and disseminated carcinoma of the breast is used in cases where surgery, radiotherapy or a combination of the two cannot be used, or have (Continued on Page 2)
been used unsuccessfully. These cases are limited in number. In the discussion, Dr. Macdonald emphasized that the general consensus was that, while estrogens and androgens both had a place in the treatment of disseminated carcinoma of the breast, estrogens usually proved more beneficial than androgens, particularly in the cases of post menopausal (natural or induced) women, since tumors cannot be suppressed with androgens without resultant virilization.

Dr. Casberg stated the surgeon's responsibility for preparation of the patient insofar as psychological and physical trauma are concerned. He also placed emphasis that during surgery the tumor should be handled carefully. The surgeon should regard cancer just as he would an infectious process, and should take measures to prevent dissemination of cancer cells in unaffected areas.

Other processes discussed were the place of oophorectomy, adrenalectomy and pituitary stock section in the treatment of late breast carcinoma. Cases were presented which clearly demonstrated the results that could be expected.

Dr. Macdonald as dinner speaker presented statistics relating to breast cancer. He pointed out that 45 per cent of the women with breast cancer could be cured, and that in some types of tumors, time, with regard to early treatment, was of relatively little importance.

One hundred fourteen physicians registered for the 2 day symposium; 53 physicians were from Houston, 55 from other areas of Texas, 2 from Louisiana, and one each from Canada, Mississippi, New York and Oklahoma.

Abstracts of the cases presented and a current bibliography on cancer of the breast were distributed. This bibliography is available upon request.

The 1957 Clinical Symposium topic will be announced later.

PATIENTS PRESENTED VIA TELEVISION

A new method of presenting patients was used at the first Clinical Symposium at MD Anderson. Using the first compatible color TV installation within a hospital in the United States, attending physicians saw case presentations of various types of carcinoma of the breast.

Doctors in attendance in the auditorium were able to see the presentations much closer than if the patients were shown on stage. The demonstrations were without reserve since the patients, located in a surgical room on the fourth floor, were unable to hear the discussion of their case. The patients were relaxed since they were in the presence of only a clinical doctor and nurse. The camera was operated by remote controls.

The TV camera used was designed with staff help, especially for installation at MD Anderson. No high level of illumination is required for the camera. It weighs only 80 pounds as compared with 450 pounds of the commercial TV cameras. The installation in a surgical room comes from the ceiling, so the camera does not interfere with surgical processes.

Anderson Hospital was designed to accommodate color television for its teaching program. This planning included specially designed operating rooms, autopsy theater and fluoroscopic rooms, all of which, by special conduits, can be utilized for color TV programs. The programs may be viewed in the auditorium and five conference rooms.

Plans also included the possibility of inter-building communication in the Texas Medical Center. In the very near future it will be possible for the camera to show a patient with an oral cavity lesion during examination at MD Anderson Hospital to classes held in the nearby University Dental Branch.

DRS. P. M. WHEELIS, BROWNWOOD, TEXAS; V. H. PRICE, LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA; C. E. ADAMS, ABILENE, TEXAS, AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR D. E. LISON, CHECK SET ON WHICH COLOR PRESENTATION OF PATIENTS WERE RECEIVED DURING CLINICAL SYMPOSIUM.
PEDIATRIC CANCER PATIENT CARE

Cancer accounts for about ten per cent of the total deaths in children under the age of 15 years. As a leading cause of death among children, second only to accidents in most age groups, the diagnosis, treatment and care of the juvenile cancer patient deserves special emphasis. For this reason, The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute has a special pediatrics ward devoted to the handling of neoplastic and allied diseases in children. The pediatrics staff assumes the responsibility of making available to the sick child the various diagnostic and therapeutic facilities of the hospital.

Hospitalization of the child with a grave or hopeless prognosis subjects the family to a series of stresses. M. D. Anderson Hospital regulations permit one parent to stay continuously on the ward with the more seriously ill child. Supervised participation in the routine care of the child and close contact with other mothers and fathers aid both the sick child and his parents in solving various adjustment problems.

The course and diverse manifestations of childhood cancer, particularly leukemia, lymphoma and neuroblastoma, are studied intensively and clinically documented in meticulous detail. Data thus recorded are used in studying epidemiologic factors, in evaluating the extent and status of the disease and in assessing the results of therapy. The use of anti-neoplastic agents in the management of cancer demands continuous observation of the patient and a close follow-up of objective criteria.

The research activities of the pediatric section include physiopathologic investigations on the impact of cancer on the child and studies concerning the factors that influence the deleterious effects and spread of the disease process. In the laboratory, leukemia in mice is being studied intensively with the purpose of determining, if possible, the etiologic agent of mouse leukemia. Other investigations are intended to define the facts that may enhance or inhibit leukemogenesis and cancerogenesis in mice. Controlled studies in mice are also being used in the evaluation of anti-leukemic activity of various chemotherapeutic compounds. "These studies" said Dr. Grant Taylor, Section Head, "are carried on with the aid of the home physician who collects various information for us while the patient is in his care."

The Volunteer Services Department at the hospital has been most thoughtful in providing activities for the children in order to help make the adjustment to hospitalization much easier. Recently the volunteers arranged to have the Harris County Sheriff's Mounted Posse drill below the hospital windows; a special teacher has been obtained from the Houston Public School System so that the youngsters, who are able, can keep up some with their classes; and a garden club has scheduled a nine months activity program of helping the children grow plants that they can easily care for and watch grow in their own rooms. An electronically controlled model train was installed in the playroom by the Houston Model Railroad Club.

The total number of out-patient visits at MDAH for the 1955-56 period was 88,112.

Between September 1, 1955 and August 31, 1956, MDAH had 3,769 hospital admissions.

YEARBOOK SCHEDULED

An annual publication containing 200 comprehensive abstracts of significant articles published during the preceding year has been compiled at M. D. Anderson Hospital.

Selection of the 200 articles from 3,900 published during the year was made by editors at MDAH with the assistance of an editorial consultant board of 120 medical and research scientists who are nationally recognized for their outstanding contributions to the field of cancer therapy and research. The book has been designed to make it useful to both the general practicing physician and the medical specialist.

The book will be published by The Year Book Publishers, Inc., Chicago, and will be ready for distribution in early February 1957.

The Cancer Yearbook will include sections on head and neck, brain and nervous system, gastrointestinal tract, lung, skin, breast, genitourinary tract, female genital tract, and bone and soft parts. Some of the additional sections include, pathology, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, pediatric cancer, and metastatic tumors.

BLACKFORD MEMORIAL LECTURES

The first Blackford Memorial Lecture on Cancer was held November 13 at Denison, under the sponsorship of the Grayson County Medical Society. The annual lecture series, designed to present physicians with the latest information on the diagnosis and treatment of cancer, was established by the endowment of Mrs. Clara Blackford Smith in honor of her father, the late G. L. Blackford of Denison.

Dr. John D. Gleckler was appointed chairman of the lecture project by the Grayson County Medical Society.

Included in the first series of lectures were papers on: “Cancer of the Uterus” by Dr. Willard R. Cooke, Galveston; “The Present Status of Cobalt-60 Teletherapy in the Management of the Cancer Patient” by Dr. Gilbert H. Fletcher, MDAH; “The Blackford Memorial Lectureship” by Dr. Don Freeman, Denison; “The Diagnosis and Management of Malignant Lymphoma” by Dr. E. E. Muirhead, Dallas; and “The Principles of Cancer Surgery” by Dr. R. Lee Clark, Jr., MDAH.
VIRUS IMPLICATED IN ORIGIN OF MOUSE LEUKEMIA

Extensive studies have recently been carried out on the part played by a virus-like agent in the origin of leukemia in certain strains of mice showing a very high incidence of this disease. Claims have been made that leukemia can be induced in certain strains of mice by means of cell-free filtrates of organs of leukemic mice. The conclusion reached that a virus is implicated in the origin of leukemia in mice has been confirmed by some investigators and is disputed by others.

Electron microscope studies were undertaken in the Section of Virology and Electron Microscopy at MDAH in an attempt to establish whether or not virus-like particles are present in organs of mice showing leukemia. In these studies mice were used of a strain maintained at MDAH and also mice from a strain supplied by Dr. Lloyd Law of the Section of Leukemic Studies, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, Maryland. Cervical, inguinal, and mesenteric lymph nodes as well as the thymus gland, spleen and liver were examined in ultra-thin sections by means of the Electron Microscope.

Certain characteristic changes were found in all tissues examined. The changes in tissues and organs appear to follow the same pattern in all organs of mice of strains examined. In addition, virus-like particles were found in all of the organs. The virus-like particles have been observed in the cytoplasm of cells as well as outside the cells in intracellular spaces. Large dense inclusion bodies have been found in the cytoplasm of affected cells. Virus particles appear in these inclusion bodies. Signs of progressive cellular damage followed by complete disintegration of the cells have been found to take place. Following break-up of cells, virus particles appear in the intercellular spaces.

Control of mice of young age, free from leukemia both clinically and on post mortem examination, fail to reveal similar changes in the organs which have been studied.

Mice are known to carry a number of latent viruses. One of the most common, the lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus, has been ruled out by means of bio-assays. A number of tests are in progress in an attempt to clarify the relationship between the virus-particles and leukemia in mice.

The studies on the viral causation of mouse mammary cancer are under the direction of Dr. Leon Dmochowski, virologist at MDAH and recently named Fellow of the New York Academy of Sciences, and Mr. Clifford Grey.

1957 SYMPOSIUM

The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute will hold its Eleventh Annual Symposium on Fundamental Cancer Research, March 7, 8, and 9, 1957.

The topic for the meeting will be "Viruses and Tumor Growth". Program chairman, Dr. Leon Dmochowski, Chief of Virology and Electron Microscopy at MDAH, has announced the session chairmen. They are:

Joseph W. Beard, M.D., Professor of Experimental Surgery, Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, North Carolina.

Edwin H. Lennette, M.D., Chief, Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory, State Department of Public Health, Berkeley, California.

Albert B. Sabin, M.D., Research Professor of Pediatrics, College of Medicine, and Head of the Infectious Disease Division at the Children's Hospital Research Foundation, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Jerome T. Syverton, M.D., Professor and Chairman of the Department of Bacteriology and Immunology, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Using the new and the old, time-lapse photography and the Chinese abacus, cancer cells are being studied to show the relation of chromosomes to cancer in the cytology laboratory at MDAH. Strains of both cancer and normal tissue are under scrutiny.

Cultured in test tubes containing human blood serum diluted with salt, the cells are maintained and grown from generation to generation. The cell activity is recorded in graphic pictures of movement and division with the aid of time-lapse photography. Calculations are made on the Chinese abacus, the mathematical instrument used by the Chinese since the 12th century. The cytologist, Dr. T. C. Hsu, who received his B. A. Degree from the National University of Chekiang in China, in 1941 came to the United States and received his Ph.D. from The University of Texas in 1951. Before coming to MDAH as microcystologist Dr. Hsu was assistant professor of Anatomy at The University of Texas Medical Branch and worked with Dr. Charles Pomerat, one of the prime developers of time-lapse photographic equipment.

Another study under his supervision is research on the drug 4-aminopyrazolo[3,4-d]pyrimidine, which kills test tube cervical cancer and cancer in mice.