

INCIDENCE OF WALTHARD RESTS IN NORMAL FALLOPIAN TUBES

Short Communication

by

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Since 1903, when Walthard described the cell rests carrying his name, these are taken to be embryonic inclusions of serosal epithelium which are capable of metaplasia. The similarity between these nests and epithelial islands seen in Brenner tumour has further stimulated the interest in the significance of Walthard cell rests. Apart from the morphological similarity, there seems to be no other definite clue to indicate the histogenesis of Brenner tumour from these rests (Teoh, 1953).

Though in text books of Gynaecological Pathology (Novak, 1967; Haines and Taylor, 1962; Woodruff and Pauerstein, 1969) it is mentioned that Walthard cell rests occur commonly in the mesosalpinx, on the fallopian tubes and less frequently in the ovaries, no exact incidence is given. Some authors believe that these rests are less frequent in adults than in children (Novak, loc cit, 1967). We wish to present our observations regarding the

occurrence of Walthard cell rests in normal fallopian tubes.

Observations

A total of six hundred normal fallopian tubes received after postpartum and elective sterilisation operations were studied for presence of Walthard cell rests. It was found that a total of one hundred and fifty three fallopian tubes had one or two Walthard cell rests on one or both sides (25.5 per cent). It is to be noted that these segments of fallopian tubes did not macroscopically show any granules on the surface indicating the presence of cell rests, and the sections were taken at random. About thirty per cent of the cell rests were cystic. It may be of interest to note that in a total of one hundred and fifteen normal ovaries received, only one has shown the presence of Walthard cell rest (Figs. 1 & 2).

Summary

In a study of six hundred normal fallopian tubes, 25.5 per cent showed the presence of Walthard cell rests.

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See Figs. on Art Paper III