DISTANT METASTASIS FROM CARCINOMA OF CERVIX

by

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Distant metastases from carcinoma of the cervix is not very common, because death occurs from local lesion before distant involvement becomes clinically evident. Epidermoid carcinoma does not tend to invade blood vessels and so metastases via blood stream is rare. But in some cases of anaplastic carcinoma distant metastases are found in the liver, lungs, occasionally in bones specially the vertebrae. Unusual sites, such as heart (intracavitary) have been reported by Dibadj (1967).

Badib and associates (1963) reported 168 cases of distant metastases from carcinoma of the cervix and reviewed the literature. But they were unaware of reports of Carlson *et al* (1967), Marques *et al* (1966), Varadaranjan (1964), Wastell (1966), Diddle (1969). More recently Daw *et al* (1974) reported 16 cases. In this paper 7 cases of distant metastases from carcinoma of the cervix found among 349 cervical cancer cases attending Gynaecological outpatient department, S.C.B. Medical College Hospital, Cuttack from 1967 to 1973. Details of cases are given in Table 1.

Discussion

Badib *et al* (1968) reported greatest number of various sites in which distant metastases were found. They found liver and lungs as the commonest sites. In this series, 3 out of 7 had skin lesion, and one had kidney mestastases. Kidney lesions have not been previously reported in literature.

Marques *et al* (1966) found 113 cases of bone metastases in literature and added 42 of their own. Badib (1968) and Carlson (1967) added further 42 and 85 cases of their own respectively. Varadaranjan (1964) reviewed the literature and reported 6 cases of skin metastases. He also added a case with metastases in skin of abdominal wall, chest wall, thigh and neck. Badib (1968) reported 10, Diddle (1969) 1, Daw (1974) 2, Carlson (1967) 4 cases and 3 cases of this paper of skin metastases.

Badib (1968) believed that distant metastases were liable to occur mainly in patients who were treated by radium, because survival is longer in cases treated by radium. Fourteen cases out of 16 reported by Daw's were treated by radium. However, Daw is of the opinion that the various methods of treatment for primary leison do not have any effect on the distribution of distant metastases. In the present series of cases all except one were treated by either operation or deep X-Ray or combination of both. The one case of metastases in the liver may be secondary from other primary site which was not clinically evident or may be due to multicentric origin of malignant disease.

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