

The relapse of stone in the bladder after lithotomy / by Charles Williams.

Contributors

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COLLEGE OF SURGEONS
ENGLAND

The relapse of Stone in the Bladder after Lithotomy.

By CHARLES WILLIAMS, F.R.C.S.,
Assistant Surgeon to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital.

[Reprinted from the "Lancet," May 18th, 1878.]

At a recent meeting of the Royal Medico-Chirurgical Society a very instructive discussion followed the delivery of Sir Henry Thompson's elaborate and interesting paper on the subject of stone in the bladder.¹ Allusion was made to the rarity of a recurrence of that disease, and Mr. Cadge referred to twelve cases of relapse recorded by the late John Green Crosse in 704 patients operated on for stone at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital.²

Mr. Crosse's table of relapses is, in many particulars, incorrect, principally in the omission of *three* cases. The addition of these to his twelve makes the actual number *fifteen* which presented themselves from the opening of the institution in 1772 to 1834—the year in which Mr. Crosse compiled his table. The proportion of relapses therefore should be, one in every *forty-seven*, instead of one in *fifty-eight*.³ Since the latter year, fourteen additional cases have occurred at the Norwich Hospital. This makes a total of *twenty-eight* relapses in 1015 operations⁴ between 1772 and 1869—a period of ninety-seven years; and gives a proportion of *one in thirty-six*, or, in 935 lithotomies (lateral and median), *one in thirty-three*.

An analysis of these cases⁵ shows that lithotomy was performed a second time in twenty-four patients, a third time in three, and a fourth time in one. Twenty-three were cured; five died; five

¹ "Lancet," March 16th, 1878.

² "A Treatise on the Formation, &c., of the Urinary Calculus;" by J. G. Crosse. 1841.

³ If 35 females are excluded from Mr. Crosse's table, the cases of lateral lithotomy will stand at 669, the recurrences at 15, the proportion 1 in 44.

⁴ Lithotrities and operations on females are included in this number.

⁵ "Holmes's System of Surgery," vol. iv, second edition, 1870.

had stone a third time, of whom four were cut and recovered, the fifth was deemed unfit for operation. All the patients were males; no instance of recurrence having shown itself in the female.

Three of the cases recurred before six years of age; six under ten; two between ten and twenty; two between twenty and thirty; four between thirty and forty; two between forty and fifty; three between fifty and sixty; eight between sixty and seventy; and one between seventy and eighty. One death occurred under forty; and four above that period of life. The former (thirty-eight years of age) died on the seventeenth day, the cause being unrecorded. Of the latter, one, aged forty-seven, died on the twentieth day, cause unknown; the second, aged sixty-five, died on the fifth day, cause unknown; the third, aged seventy, died of exhaustion on the seventy-fourth day; and the fourth also died of exhaustion on the fourteenth day.

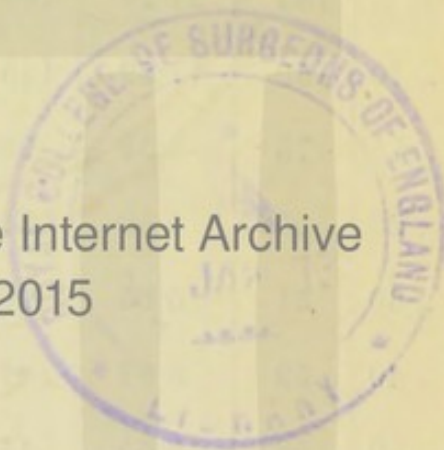

In seven cases the second operation took place at periods varying from four to twelve months from the date of dismissal; in nine, from one to two years; in four, from two to three years; in one, from three to four years; in one, from four to five years; in one, from five to six years; in two, from six to seven years; in one, from eight to nine years; in one, from nine to ten years; and in one at twelve years. The shortest period of relapse was four months; the longest period, one hundred and forty-two months. The average period of recurrence in twenty-eight cases was thirty-nine months.

Lithotomy was performed three times in four cases: in two of these at the expiration of eleven months from dismissal after the first operation; in one, fifteen months; and in the fourth, thirty-four months. The lateral operation was adopted twice in eighteen cases, and three times in two cases. The median preceded the lateral once in one patient, and twice in another patient; in five instances the lateral preceded the median. One patient was cut twice by the median plan, and another patient once by the lateral and twice by the median, and one patient twice by the lateral and twice by the median. The operation was performed in all the cases along the original seat of the incisions, and without difficulty. One man had undergone lithotrity twice previously to the first lithotomy, at an interval of twenty-eight months, thirteen months intervened between the last lithotrity and the first lithotomy, and thirty months between this and the

TABLE OF PATIENTS ON WHOM LATERAL LITHOTOMY WAS PERFORMED AT THE NORFOLK AND NORWICH HOSPITAL FROM JANUARY, 1772, TO DECEMBER, 1869.

CHARLES WILLIAMS, F.R.C.S., Assistant Surgeon to the Hospital.

Age of Patients Operated upon.	No. of Cases.	Per centage of the whole number.	Recov-eries.	Per centage of Recoveries.	Deaths.	Per centage fatal.	Proportion fatal.	No. of Cases.	Per centage of the whole number.	Recov-eries.	Per centage of Recoveries.	Deaths.	Per centage fatal.	Proportion fatal.	No. of Cases.	Per centage of the whole number.	Recov-eries.	Per centage of Recoveries.	Deaths.	Per centage fatal.	Proportion fatal.
1 to 5	185	21.23	169	91.36	16	8.64	1 in 11.56	335	38.46	314	93.74	21	6.26	1 in 15.95	551	63.26	507	92.02	44	7.98	1 in 12.52
5,, 10	150	17.22	145	96.6	5	3.4	1,, 30														
10,, 15	73	8.38	66	90.41	7	9.59	1,, 10.42	113	12.97	100	88.50	13	11.50	1,, 8.69							
15,, 20	40	4.59	34	85	6	15	1,, 6.6														
20,, 30	51	5.85	46	90.20	5	9.80	1,, 10.2	103	11.82	93	90.30	10	9.70	1,, 10.3							
30,, 40	52	5.97	47	90.39	5	9.61	1,, 10.4														
40,, 50	58	6.65	44	75.87	14	24.13	1,, 4.14	178	20.44	142	79.77	36	20.23	1,, 4.94	320	36.74	248	77.5	72	22.5	1 in 4.4
50,, 60	120	13.89	98	81.7	22	18.3	1,, 5.45														
60,, 70	119	13.66	90	75.43	29	24.57	1,, 4.06	142	16.30	106	74.55	36	25.45	1,, 3.94							
70,, 80	23	2.64	16	70.84	7	29.16	1,, 3.42														
Total	871		755	86.68	116	13.32	1 in 7.50	871		755	86.68	116	13.32	1 in 7.50	871		755	86.68	116	13.32	1 in 7.50



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second lithotomy. Eight cases terminated in fistula—some rectal and others perineal; two of these were cured by the second operation; four occurred between the ages of sixty and seventy, one of which was cured.

In eighteen cases the calculi were removed in an entire condition, and an average of forty-two months intervened between the two operations; in fourteen cases the calculi were broken in the extraction; the average was twenty-five months. In two instances the stones were small and numerous, some of which were broken and others perfect. In one case a sacculated calculus was left undetected in the bladder, and removed with a loose one at a second operation. The largest recurrent stone weighed three ounces and five scruples, the interval being a hundred and eleven months. The smallest recurrent stone weighed six grains, the interval being seventy months. In one of the cases which relapsed under six years of age, the weight of the calculus was 210 grains (three drachms and a half), the intervening period being fourteen months; in a second child, 150 grains (eight scruples), the interval being twenty-four months. In both cases the calculi were removed entire at the first operation. It does not appear that the calculus removed at the second operation is necessarily of the same character, in all cases, as that removed at the first: in nineteen the second formation was of the same composition as the first, ten being composed of phosphates and nine of lithic acid and lithates; the phosphates succeeded the lithates in seven and the oxalates in two.

The question of relapse after operations for the cure of vesical calculus is a very interesting one, and rarely mentioned by writers on lithotomy, and if alluded to is generally in so vague a manner that their remarks are of little assistance to us.

From the records of operations performed at the Hôpital la Charité, Paris, between the years 1806 and 1831, we find that six cases of relapse presented themselves after seventy cases of lithotomy, or one in eleven. M. Civiale informs us that the proportion indicated by returns which he received from Bavaria is five in 162 operations, or one in thirty-two, from Bohemia one in forty-six operations, from Dalmatia one in forty-three operations. At the Luneville Hospital, the registers show thirteen cases of relapse after 1492 operations, or one in 116

cases. According to the returns received by M. Civiale from the whole of France, the proportion of relapses appears to be one in seventy-four cases, or thirty-two in 2368 operations; but of these latter 314 were cases of lithotrity.

With regard to lithotrity relapse occurs much more frequently than after lithotomy, though of recurrence after this operation it is not my intention to say anything in this communication beyond the fact that after 548 operations, Civiale found relapse followed in fifty-five cases, giving a proportion of one in every ten patients.

The great question which interests us most is the actual cause of the return of the disease. This may take place under two circumstances: fragments may have been accidentally left in the bladder and become the nuclei of subsequent formations; or the relapse may depend on the same constitutional disposition which gave rise to the first calculus. The latter cases are simple recurrences of the disease, and cannot be connected with the operation, but in the former we may attribute the accident in a great measure either to the operator or to the method which he has employed.

RECURRENCES.

Under 6 years of age	...	...	3
„ 10 „	...	...	6
From 10 to 20 years of age	...	...	2
„ 20 to 30 „	...	...	2
„ 30 to 40 „	...	...	4
„ 40 to 50 „	...	...	2
„ 50 to 60 „	...	...	3
„ 60 to 70 „	...	...	8
„ 70 to 80 „	...	...	1

THE SECOND OPERATION TOOK PLACE AT PERIODS VARYING

From 4 to 12 months	in 7 cases
„ 1 to 2 years	„ 9 „
„ 2 to 3 „	„ 4 „
„ 3 to 4 „	„ 1 „
„ 4 to 5 „	„ 1 „
„ 5 to 6 „	„ 1 „
„ 6 to 7 „	„ 2 „
„ 8 to 9 „	„ 1 „
„ 9 to 10 „	„ 1 „
„ 11 to 12 „	„ 1 „

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Average period of recurrence, 39 months.

Norwich, May 18th, 1878.