

## **Case of ovariectomy / by George Buchanan, A.M., M.D.**

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CASE OF

OVARIOTOMY.

BY

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JAMES MACLEHOSE, 61 ST. VINCENT STREET,

BOOKSELLER TO THE UNIVERSITY AND TO THE FACULTY OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS.

1867.



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## CASE OF OVARIOTOMY.

THE report which follows contains the particulars of my fifth successful case of ovariectomy. I do not intend at present to make any general remarks on the operation, except to express my opinion that it is one of the most philosophical of all the proceedings of surgery; since its object is to remove, not only the diseased growth, but the organ in which it is situated; and the experience of the last few years shows that it may be undertaken with a fair prospect of success. Most medical men who object to the operation, on account of the immediate danger to life to which it exposes the patient, are in the habit of referring to the frequency with which the disease is found in a chronic state, in what are termed "pot-bellied" women. But these examples are comparatively rare. I know of none; but my opportunities for acquiring such information are comparatively limited, because my adhering strictly to surgical practice debars me from the facilities which family practice affords, of becoming acquainted with these particulars of family history. It would be a very important point in clearing up this question if such cases could be collected; and I would take this opportunity of inviting my medical brethren to send me notes of any cases of chronic ovarian tumour they may see in the course of their family practice.

That most of the patients who have submitted to the operation, would speedily have died if left alone, there is no question;



while the restoration to health, vigour, and social duties which follows its successful performance is most gratifying to the patient and her friends, and an abundant reward to the surgeon for his anxiety during the operation and its after treatment. The notes of the case and treatment are by Dr. Taylor of Darvel, who took the whole charge after the operation.

CASE OF MRS. Y.—Mrs. Y., aged 26, was married four years ago; had her first child, a boy, between nine and ten months afterwards. Her eldest child is now three years old. After her confinement she observed that the belly was always fuller than it should be, although she did not imagine that there was anything wrong. She became pregnant again and this took off her attention from the fulness of the abdomen. She complained now and then of uneasiness about the belly during her last pregnancy, but she attributed it all to the state she was in. I attended her in her second confinement, nine months ago. Labour was perfectly natural, and nothing untoward either then or since in connection with her confinement. But on putting on the abdominal bandage immediately after delivery, I observed to her that she was a great deal stouter than natural. Her recovery after confinement had nothing unusual about it, only the fulness of abdomen did not subside. I examined her ten days after delivery, and told her I believed it was caused by a tumour, and the result has proved I was correct. Various diuretics, tonics, &c., were tried, but of no avail. At last nourishing diet and tonics alone were tried to improve her general health, and she improved considerably, although the swelling gradually increased.

When she was seen by Dr. George Buchanan, on the 8th July, he pronounced it an ovarian cyst, with comparatively thin walls, and apparently no solid substance. Ovariectomy was recommended, to which the patient consented. The operation was performed at Darvel by Dr. Buchanan, Drs. Davidson of Newmilns, and Stewart, being also present. The incision was made three inches in length, and the contents, as expected, were fluid, of a dark brown colour. The cyst, when emptied, was easily pulled through the incision, and the clamp applied to a long thin pedicle. The patient was put to bed in a very fair state, the whole proceedings having occupied very little time.

The cyst and its contents weighed 10 pounds.

For the sake of distinctness and brevity, the reports are tabulated daily as follows:—



# REPORTS BY DR. TAYLOR.

	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Mon.	Tues.	Tues.
Date	20th, 7 p.m.	21st, 9 a.m.	22d, 8 a.m.	22d, 7 p.m.	23d, 8 a.m.	23d, 9 p.m.
Pulse	72	86	100	96-100	96-100	96
Tongue	Moist	Moist	Moist	Moist.	Moist	Moist
Skin	Cool	Slight heat	Cool	Cool	Cool	Cool
Urine	5 p.m. 12 night	4 p.m. 12 night	8 oz.	4 p.m. 12 night	8 oz.	4 p.m. 12 p.m.
Sleep	10 oz.	8 oz. 12 oz.	Most of night	8 oz. 8 oz.	All night	6 oz. 6 oz.
Pain	Now and then	Now and then	None	Most of day	Tenderness	Two hours
	In back, two hours	Slight head-ache.	Slight	None	over wound	
Thirst	None	Slight	Slight	Slight	Slight	
Fd. or brandy		Ice now and then	Two teaspoon-fuls of beef tea hourly, and ice now and then		Tablespoonful of beef tea hourly, and en. 40 drops	
Opiat enema						
Remarks.						
	Wed.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Fri.	Sat.
Date	24th, 8 a.m.	24th, 9 p.m.	25th, 8 a.m.	26th, 9 a.m.	26th, 11 p.m.	27th, 11 p.m.
Pulse	96	96	90	86	80	72
Tongue	Moist	Moist	Moist	Moist	Moist	Moist
Skin	Cool	Cool	Cool	Cool	Cool	Cool
Urine	9 oz.	4 oz. 11 oz.	4 oz. 12 oz.	8 oz.	4 oz. 11 oz.	4 oz. 11 oz.
Sleep	Most of night	Now and then	Now and then	All night	Now and then	Now and then
Pain	None	None	None	None	None	None
Thirst	Slight	Slight	None	None	None	None
Food, &c.	A tablespoon-ful strong bf tea hourly	As before	As before	As before	As before	As before
Opiat enema		En. 40 drops	En. 40 drops	En. 40 drops	En. 40 drops	En. 40 drops
			Ice only twice during to-day		Itching at wound to-day	

July, 1867.		Sun.		Sun.		Mon.		Mon.		Tues.		Tues.		Wed.		Wed.	
Date	28th, 9 a.m.	28th, 11 p.m.	29th, 9 a.m.	29th, 11 p.m.	29th, 11 p.m.	30th, 9 a.m.	30th, 11 p.m.	31st, 9 a.m.	31st, 9 p.m.	30th, 9 a.m.	30th, 11 p.m.	31st, 9 a.m.	31st, 9 p.m.	31st, 9 a.m.	31st, 9 p.m.	31st, 9 a.m.	31st, 9 p.m.
Pulse	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	64	64	64	64	64	64	64	64	64
Tongue	Moist	Moist	Moist	Moist	Moist	Moist	Moist	Moist	Moist	Moist	Moist	Moist	Moist	Moist	Moist	Moist	Moist
Skin	Cool	Cool	Cool	Cool	Cool	Cool	Cool	Cool	Cool	Cool	Cool	Cool	Cool	Cool	Cool	Cool	Cool
Urine	8 oz.	6 oz.	8 oz.	8 oz.	12 oz.	24 oz.	24 oz.	24 oz.	24 oz.	24 oz.	24 oz.	24 oz.	24 oz.	24 oz.	24 oz.	24 oz.	24 oz.
Sleep	Well, night	None, day	All night	All night	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Pain	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Thirst	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Food, &c.	Beef tea, as before, but stronger	As before	As before	As before	As before	As before	As before	As before	As before	As before	As before	As before	As before	As before	As before	As before	As before
Opiat. en.																	
Remarks	*																
August		Thurs.		Fri.		Sat.		Sun.		Mon.		Tues.		Wed.		Thurs.	
Date	1st, 11 a.m.	2d, 11 p.m.	3d, 12 a.m.	4th, 10 a.m.	5th, 11 a.m.	6th, 7 p.m.	7th, 10 a.m.	8th, 3 p.m.	9th, 10 a.m.	10th, 11 a.m.	11th, 11 a.m.	12th, 11 p.m.	13th, 11 p.m.	14th, 10 a.m.	15th, 10 a.m.	16th, 3 p.m.	17th, 3 p.m.
Pulse	64	64	66	66	66	66	66	66	66	66	66	66	66	66	66	66	66
Tongue	Moist	Moist	Moist	Moist	Moist	Moist	Moist	Moist	Moist	Moist	Moist	Moist	Moist	Moist	Moist	Moist	Moist
Skin	Cool	Cool	Cool	Cool	Cool	Cool	Cool	Cool	Cool	Cool	Cool	Cool	Cool	Cool	Cool	Cool	Cool
Urine	27 oz. daily	29 oz.	30 oz.	34 oz.	36 oz.	38 oz.	39 oz.	40 oz.	41 oz.	42 oz.	43 oz.	44 oz.	45 oz.	46 oz.	47 oz.	48 oz.	49 oz.
Sleep	Well	Well	Well	Well	Well	Well	Well	Well	Well	Well	Well	Well	Well	Well	Well	Well	Well
Pain	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Thirst	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Food	As before	As before	As before	As before	As before	As before	As before	As before	As before	As before	As before	As before	As before	As before	As before	As before	As before
Op. en.	+																
Remarks																	

\* Menstruation returned to-day, and slight mucus in urine.

† Ceased the use of *catheter* and *opiate enema* to-day, the 29th of July, and the mucus disappeared from the urine on the 30th July.

‡ Two glasses of sherry daily, and diet as before. The clamp came away on 3d August, and all ligatures were removed at same date.

§ Bowels moved with castor oil injection on 5th August; castor oil injection repeated each night.



On Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, she was in every respect the same as on Thursday. Sat up in bed a little on Saturday the 10th August for the first time, also on Sunday. The bowels were only moved with castor oil injections until Monday, August 12th, when she got leave to move about the room, and the bowels were moved naturally without injection. Since that date she has gone up and down the stairs two or three times, and feels nothing the worse. She is now taking her usual diet. The wound is quite healed, and she feels quite well in every respect.

Oct. 3.—Patient is now quite well and strong.

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Oct. 31st.—Since the above report was written I have had another case of ovariectomy. The operation was performed in the Lying-in Hospital on the 4th of October. The clamp came away on the fifth day, and the patient is now doing well.—G. B.

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*Postscript.*—A very interesting circumstance has occurred in connection with one of my former patients, whose case is recorded in the *Glasgow Medical Journal*, for August, 1866. Ovariectomy was performed on the 12th June of that year, and the following letter shows how soon such an operation can restore the patient to the healthy exercise of all the functions of the body.

MUIRHEAD, CHRYSTON, 8th August, 1867.

Dear Sir.—I am happy to inform you that your old patient, Mrs. M., was safely delivered of a fine healthy boy on Thursday last. Parturition went on as usual in natural cases, and she is now able to be up for the greater part of the day.

I remain, &c., &c.,

WILLIAM MURRAY.

DR. GEORGE BUCHANAN.



