SUMMARY

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This work was done on 65 postmenopausal patients with the aim of studing their vaginal cytosmears.

For every patient, full history was taken & clinical examination was done.

Two smears were taken from every patient. One was obtained by scraping the lateral vaginal Wall nearly opposite the tip of the cervix. The other smear was obtained by scraping the ectocervix & the squamo columnar junction.

After fixation, the smears were stained by Papanicolaou's method.

The patients were classified into 4 groups; patients complaining of menopausal symptoms (58.5%); those presented with genital prolapse (15.4%), those complaining of vaginal discharge (15.4%) & those suffering from vaginal bleeding (10.8%).

The following results were found:

- The average age of menopause was 46.2 years.
- There was gradual decrease in percentage of patients experiencing menopausal symptoms with age.

* The features of vaginal smears in cases of genital
prolapse are; high percentage of super ficial cells,
K.I. above 10 in 33.3% of cases, the presence of anu-
cleate superficial cells, esinophilia, pyknosis of
intermediate cells, ∝ features of dryness.

* The inflammatory smear type was found in 21.3% of all
the smears. Trichomonas vaginalis was identified in 2
smears, candida in 4 smears & no specific agent was
identified in 7 smears. Six smears of patients comp-
laining of vaginal discharge were class II & 3 smears
were class III.

* Four smears (66.6%) of patients complaining of vaginal
bleeding showed a K.I. above 10.

* Dysplasia was found in 14 smears (23%); 8 patients
were suffering from menopausal symptoms, 3 patients
were complaining of vaginal discharge, 2 patients were
presenting with genital prolapse ∝ one patient was
suffering from vaginal bleeding. K.I. above 10 was
found in 40% of the dysplastic smears.

Mild dysplasia was found in 64.3% of the dysplastic
smears, moderate dysplasia in 28.6% & severe dysplasia in
7.1%.

Evidence of infection was detected in 28.6% of the
dysplastic smears.

- The most common symptom was hot flushes (57.9%).

- There was no established relation between the age of menarche & the age of menopause.

- The vaginal smears were classified according to Papanicolaou's classification into class I (55.7%), class II (21.3%) & class III (23%). No cases belong to class IV or V were found.

- The vaginal smears of patients complaining of menopausal symptoms were studied as regard, the m.I., the m.V. & K.I. & their relations to age.

- The number of superficial cells remains at a relatively high level in early years of menopause & then gradually decreases. There is steady rise in the number of the parabasal cells as age increases. There is a gradual drop in the number of the intermediate cells after the age of 50 years. The intermediate cells remains at arelatively high level even in late ages.

- High maturation value was found in 15.2%, moderate maturation value in 54.5% & absent orvery low maturation value in 30.3%. There was gradual decrease in maturation value with the progress of age.

- Six smears (18.2%) showed a K.I. above 10 & the mean K.I. was found to be 16.1 in all the smears.

- There was no correlation between the parabasal cell index & hot flushes.