53. Acute and Chronic Subdural Hematoma, Especially on Its Treatment

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Owing to a rapid increase of head injuries, the matter of diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic subdural hematoma has become one of the major problems for a neurosurgeon. We, therefore, have scrutinized 22 cases of acute and chronic subdural hematoma that have been hospitalized in the Surgical Department of Keio University Hospital since 1956, consisting of 20 males and 2 females, and 11 acute and 11 chronic cases. Some of the chronic cases do not yield clear-cut past history of trauma, and so it has to be carefully differentiated from brain tumor. Neurological signs are not necessarily diagnostic, and so cerebral angiography is the most reliable and necessary media for the establishment of diagnosis.

As for the treatment, there has been a variety of disputes in regard to the necessity of removal of the capsule of chronic hematoma. Recently, we have employed a method in which there is no attempt for removal of the capsule, i.e., two burr holes are made over the area of the hematoma, two nelaton catheters are inserted separately into the hematoma through each hole, and normal saline is poured in from one to let it out through the other, thus completely washing out the contents of hematoma. Lowering of the head during the maneuver facilitates reexpansion of the brain. The incisional wound is closed primarily, leaving a small rubber drain.

We have applied the method on 5 cases so far, and the results have been quite satisfactory. In comparison to the old method of removing the capsule by a large craniotomy, this is extremely practical, for the technique is simple and easy, the stress on the body is small, and there has been no recurrence of hematoma in our experiences.

54. Neuropsychiatric Survey on Sequela of Head-Injury (First Report)

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From various points of view, we have been engaged in the neuropsychiatric study of the sequel of the so-called “head-injury”, since several years ago. Among many findings obtained from 122 cases examined in detail, the relation between