A Statistics about the Causes of Delay in the Diagnosis of Stomach Cancer.

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All stomach cancer would be curable, if the diagnosis were made early enough and the proper treatment were applied immediately, however, yet it is said that the prognosis of the stomach cancer is serious. They say the reason of this is due to the delay between the time when the patient has first symptoms and the time when the definitive treatment begins. Concerning this, we investigated 652 cases of stomach cancer in ten years between 1940 and 1949 in our medical clinic, and we could get the following results:

1. In 77.1% of 652 cases there was an undue delay in making the diagnosis, and in 22.9% of them there was no delay. The delay in the diagnosis, during ten years in 1940–1949, had decreased from 80.3 to 70.3%. “No delay” had increased from 19.7 to 29.7%.

2. The responsibility for the delay of diagnosis from side of the patient was 32.9% and that from side of the physician was 35.3%. The percentage of delay by the patient had decreased from 40.9 to 24.4% in these ten years.

3. In 64.5% of 287 cases, whose delay in making the diagnosis were caused from side of physicians, physicians failed to arrive at a diagnosis in one month or, if unable to do so, did not refer the patient to a suitable person, hospital or clinic. In 26.8% of them had wrong treatments.

4. In average of 652 cases of stomach cancer 6.07 months from first symptoms to the start of proper treatment were spent in vain and the term which is due to the patients responsibility is 3.26 months from side of physician. The period of which the responsibility owes to the patient had decreased gradually from 3.35 to 2.95 months in these ten years. However, it has no change from the side of the physician.