
症例

A Case of Simple Mastectomy

by

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Simple mastectomy is one of the operations performed for carcinoma of the breast, and follow-up studies concerning survival of patients have been published in literatures. This paper presents a patient alive and well for approximately 20 years following the simple mastectomy which was of much benefit to the patient.

CASE REPORT

A 68-years-old woman was admitted for the third time at Kobe Municipal Hospital, Kobe Japan, on May 23, 1966, with chief complaint of numerous painless lumps in the right excised breast region. During the past 4 years, she had been admitted two times with the same trouble and had the removal of lumps each time. The histological examinations disclosed them to be adenocarcinomas, and it was assumed that these lumps must be attributable to the breast cancer previously removed.

She stated that about 20 years ago, 1942, she underwent simple mastectomy for a breast cancer. The definite diagnosis and the histological studies at that time were unknown, because her charts were lost during World War II. Irradiation therapy following operation was given several times, but it had to be interrupted due to threatening side effects.

On physical examination at the time of admission, she was an elderly, alert Japanese woman; pulse 85 per minute and regular; blood pressure 150/90; and afebrile.

Chest was clear to percussion and auscultation, and radiographically there was no evidence of metastases of carcinoma to the lungs. The heart and abdomen were negative.

As shown in the picture, there were some surgical scars of the previous mastectomies over the right chest, and several corn-sized lumps were palpated under the grafted skin. They were round in shape, elastic firm in consistency, and freely movable from the underlying tissue with no evidence of lymphadenopathies. It is not likely that axillary dissection was done at the time of previous operations.

The laboratory data revealed red blood cell count of 401 million; hemoglobin 12 g/dl; SGOT 21 units.

Operation : Under local anesthesia lumps were extirpated with overlying skin and its subcutaneous fat tissue en masse. The tumors were not imbedded in the deep tissue except a few which were adherent to the fascia of the major pectoral muscle. They appeared to have grown from the cancer cells disseminate in the subcutaneous tissue at the time of the previous operations. The lumps were removed thoroughly, and the skin defects were repaired by transplanting the full thickness skin from the thigh.

Pathological studies : Microscopically the tumors are composed of disorderly arranged atypical epithelial cells. The first picture (Fig. 2) is one which was biopsied four years ago, showing the aspect of tubular adenocarcinoma. The second picture (Fig. 3), the section of mass removed this year, demonstrates the development of fibrosis among the cancer cell nest, indicating the findings of scirrhous carcinoma which is generally seen in the breast cancer. Interesting is the fact that, while the mass biopsied 4 years ago shows an adenocarcinoma, the recent one shows a scirrhous carcinoma with fibrous tissue highly grown interstitially.

Judging from the findings above, it is most likely that the occurrence of these carcinoma masses were attributable to the metastases of breast cancer removed previously.

Fig. 2 Section taken 3 years ago shows tubular adenocarcinoma.

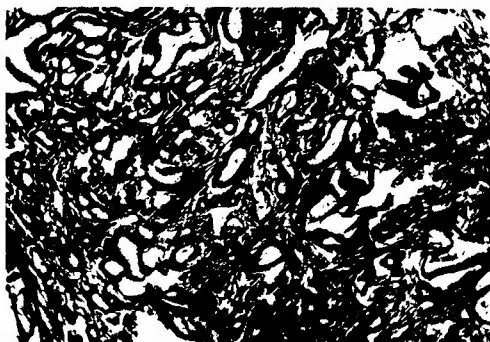
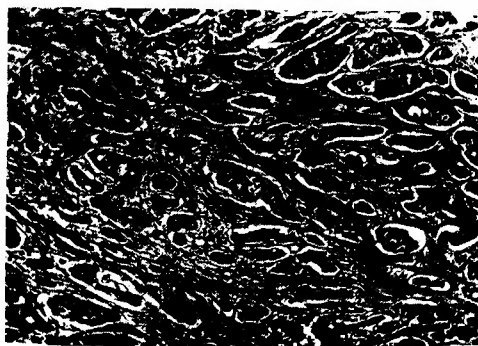


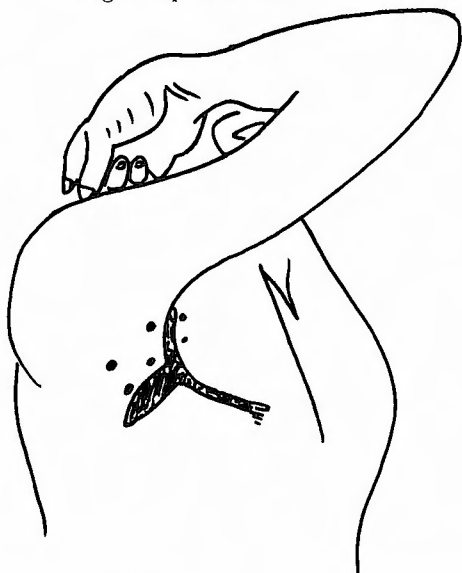
Fig. 3 Section taken at this time shows scirrhous carcinoma.



COMMENT

A number of careful statistical studies have been published on the average survival period following operative approaches for carcinoma of the breast¹⁾²⁾³⁾. DALAND⁴⁾ and BLOOM⁵⁾ pointed that the average length of survival of untreated patients is about 40 months,

Fig. 1 Subcutaneously metastasized lumps along the operative scar.



while KEYS, et al⁶⁾. stated the average survival of treated patients is approximately 6 years. KAZITANI⁷⁾ reported his 5-year-survival rate after the operation is 88.3 per cent. BYRD⁸⁾ showed statistically that 20-year-survival includes only radical mastectomy cases, though a few survival cases after simple mastectomy cases are seen in the 5 or 10-year-survival. CRILE⁹⁾ and KENEDY¹⁰⁾ suggested that simple mastectomy is one of the most beneficial means for the cure of breast cancer by presenting the beautiful data.

The case presented here has survived about 20 years after simple mastectomy without any trouble except that subcutaneous metastatic growths developed recently. It should be said that simple mastectomy was of much benefit to this patient.

Emphasis is as well made, in this case, that cancer cells disseminated during operation had been latently alive like "seeds in the ground" for 20 years. What made them fall into hibernation? It could be said that the procedure of mastectomy itself or an unknown factor after the operation had done it, though the cause is quite unknown¹¹⁾.

SUMMARY

The follow-up case which had a simple mastectomy 20 years ago is presented. She has been alive and well for this past years without any evidences of recurrence except for recent subcutaneous metastases, which, it is postulated, had grown from cancer cells which came to life 20 years after the mastectomy.

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和文抄録

単純乳房切断術の1例

— 20年 Follow-up —

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乳癌のため単純乳房切断術をうけ、20年を経過した68才の症例について報告する。患者は20年目に皮下に数コの腫瘍があるのに気づいたため来院し、約1年おきに3回の切除をうけた。組織標本では、管状腺癌乃至は硬性癌の様相を呈し、20年前の乳癌からの転移によるものと推論される。転移は局部の皮下以外には認

められなかつた。興味があるのは、前の手術時に播種された癌細胞が、20年間無症状に潜在していたことであり、癌の程度によつてはこの患者の如く、単純乳房切断でもその手術効果が充分認められるということである。