In 1964, in volume 8 of Acta Cytologica, the transcript of a symposium, “Comparative Diagnostic Accuracy, Efficiency and Specificity of Technics for the Detection of Malignancy,” was published. The symposium was organized by Emmerich von Haam, Columbus, Ohio, at the initiative of the editor-in-chief of Acta Cytologica, George L. Wied. The symposium was by correspondence, with the participation of an international panel, and covered all organs and anatomic sites other than the female genital tract. The transcript of the symposium occupied >100 pages, with bibliography.

Leopold G. Koss, Myron R. Melamed, John T. Goodner:
Pulmonary Cytology: A Brief Survey of Diagnostic Results. (From the Memorial Hospital for Cancer and Allied Diseases, New York, NY, U.S.A.) The authors reported that cytologic preparations from sputum and bronchial aspirates were positive for carcinoma in 61% and 41%, respectively. Patients included in the study were admitted with the clinical suspicion but without an established diagnosis of disease. William O. Russell, Houston, Texas, U.S.A., indicated, in his comment, that exfoliative cytology is the easiest, cheapest and generally the most reliable procedure for detection of tumors of the lung.

Henry C. Sandler:
The Cytologic Diagnosis of Tumors of the Oral Cavity. (From the Veterans Administration Hospital, Brooklyn, NY, U.S.A.) Ninety-eight percent of cytologic specimens of clinically suspicious mouth le-
sions were positive for malignant cells. Alvin F. Gardner, Silver Springs, MD, U.S.A., added that oral exfoliative cytology is a sensitive and reliable method and should be made a part of oral diagnostic procedures.

N. Henning, S. Witte, D. Bressel:
The Cytologic Diagnosis of Tumors of the Upper Gastrointestinal Tract. (From the Medizinische Universitätsklinik, Erlangen, Germany) Eighty percent of esophageal cancers and 68% of gastric carcinomas were diagnosed on smears prepared from specimens obtained by a combination of abrasive sponge and lavage techniques. R. Schade, Newcastle, England, underlined that upper gastrointestinal cytology cannot be used as a population screening method but is useful when investigating patients with upper gastrointestinal symptoms.

Howard F. Raskin, Sylvia Pleticka:
The Cytologic Diagnosis of Cancer of the Colon. (From the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD, U.S.A.) The authors described the procedure of colonic lavage in detail and pointed out that despite sparsity of malignant cells, the diagnostic accuracy for carcinoma was 81%. Genevieve Bader, New York, NY, U.S.A., noted that while physicians have given attention to cytologic examination of many body sites, the colon is an area that remains neglected cytologically.

Bernard Naylor:
The Cytologic Diagnosis of Cerebrospinal Fluid. (From the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, U.S.A.) Neoplastic cells were detected in cerebrospinal fluid from 26 percent of cases of intracranial and intraspinal neoplasms. The neoplasms with the highest positive yield were metastatic carcinomas, 42%. Friedrich Bajardi, Graz, Austria, commented that a large number of metastatic carcinomas and primary brain tumors can be recognized cytologically, that there is little doubt about the clinical value of cytologic diagnosis of cerebrospinal fluid and that its wider use should be encouraged.

Heinz Grunze:
The Comparative Diagnostic Accuracy of Cytologic Technics in the Diagnosis of Malignant Neoplasms in Serous Effusions. (From the Free University of Berlin, West Berlin, Germany) The author reported positive results in 87% of cases by combined use of the smear and cell block technique. Ruth M. Graham, Buffalo, NY, U.S.A., added that at her laboratory the accuracy in the diagnosis of metastatic disease was 70% in the pleural cavity and 92% in the abdominal cavity.

Guenther H. Ceelen:
The Cytologic Diagnosis of Ascitic Fluid (From Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, U.S.A.) The writer reported 93% diagnostic accuracy and added that repeated examinations of ascitic fluids proved to have no greater accuracy than did the examination of a single satisfactory specimen. Sarah A. Luse, St. Louis, MO, U.S.A., included 2 electron micrographs of a cell of mesothelioma and indicated that the malignant cells were indistinguishable from benign mesothelial cells.

William Umiker:
Accuracy of Cytologic Diagnosis of Cancer of the Urinary Tract. (From St. Joseph Hospital, Lancaster, PA, U.S.A.) The author reviewed the literature and stated that the sensitivity of cytologic diagnosis of carcinoma of the urinary bladder as reported varied from 26% to 100%, with a mean of 72%. J. G. S. Crabbe, London, England, observed that cytologic examination of urine has its uses in detecting tumors missed by cystoscopy.

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