AN ANALYSIS OF 500 HERNIAE ADMITTED TO A GENERAL HOSPITAL

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In this paper it is my purpose to analyse the different factors in 518 patients with herniae who sought operation at the Royal London Homoeopathic Hospital during the years 1938-1955.

Inguinal Herniae

There were 429 inguinal herniae.

Varieties: Indirect 400, 93 per cent. Direct 29, 7 per cent. Unilateral 406, 95 per cent. Bilateral 23, 5 per cent.

Side: Right, 279; left, 150; thus the right-sided preponderance was almost 2 : 1.

Sex: Male, 329; female, 150; the male preponderance was 3 : 1.

Age: The oldest in this series was aged 88 years. The youngest was aged 11 months, the average age being 44 years. The age groups were as follows:

0-20 years	..	..	59 cases, 13.7 per cent.
21-30	..	..	35 " 8.2 " "
31-40	..	..	65 " 15.1 " "
41-50	..	..	93 " 21.6 " "
51-60	..	..	105 " 23.3 " "
61-70	..	..	49 " 11.4 " "
71-80	..	..	18 " 4.1 " "
81-90	..	..	5 " 1.1 " "

Under 50 years of age: Male, 190 cases; female, 60 cases (250).

Over 50 years of age: Male, 139 cases; female, 40 cases (179).

The above figures tend to show that age plays a part in many cases. The highest incidence of inguinal herniae noted was between the ages of 50 and 60 years.

The right-sided herniae preponderance can perhaps be explained by the fact the right leg is more used for heavy work than the left in the same manner as most people are right-handed.

The male preponderance may be mostly due to the heavier occupation in industry and to the larger internal and external abdominal rings.

Femoral Herniae

Femoral herniae: total 56.

Side: Right 33, 59 per cent.; left 23, 41 per cent.; right-sided preponderance, 3 : 2.

Sex: Male, 11; female, 45; female preponderance, 4 : 1.

Age: Oldest patient in this series was aged 77 years. Youngest patient in the series was aged 23 years. Average age 50 years.

0-21 years	..	..	Nil
21-30	..	..	3 cases, 5.5 per cent.
31-40	..	..	7 " 12.5 " "
41-50	..	..	17 " 30.3 " "
51-60	..	..	16 " 28.2 " "
61-70	..	..	10 " 17.8 " "
71-80	..	..	3 " 5.5 " "

Under 50 years of age: Male, 6 cases; female, 23 cases.

Over 50 years of age: Male, 4 cases; female, 23 cases.

Umbilical Herniae

Sex: Male, 12; female, 21; female preponderance, 19 : 1.

Age: Oldest patient in the series was aged 72 years. Youngest patient in the series was aged 13 months.

It is noted that femoral herniae and umbilical herniae are commoner in female than male.

Note also that inguinal herniae are much commoner than femoral in both sexes.

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