1145 Strokes in Young Women Using Oral Contraceptives. M. Cole.
Arch. Internal Med. 120, 551-555 (November, 1967).

Six cases of brain infarction in young women associated with the use of oral contraceptives are reported, five having occurred within one year. Other factors known to cause strokes in this age group are absent. The risk of a stroke in persons using oral contraceptives appears to be enhanced, especially in the presence of vascular disease, hypertension, or migraine. The indications for using oral contraceptives should be carefully weighed in each case, and consideration should be given to the possibility of serious side effects. There are 8 references.
-- Author's summary

1146 Relation Between Change of Blood Pressure and Age. W. E. Miall and H. G. Lovell.
Brit. Med. J. 2, 660 (1967).

Data obtained from the longitudinal surveys of arterial blood pressure in two general population samples were used to examine the relation between change of blood pressure, the mean pressure attained, and age. It was shown, by multiple regression analysis of change of pressure on mean pressure and age, that in these populations changes in pressure during intervals of 10 and 8 1/2 years are highly significantly related to mean pressures, but only indirectly related to age. This implies that aging plays no direct part in determining the rate of change of pressure; age appears to play a part solely because the blood-pressure changes are positive and increase with higher pressures. If change of pressure is determined by attained pressure, this would explain the observation that some individuals and some races show no apparent increase of pressure with age, and would partially reconcile the conflicting views on the nature of unexplained hypertension. However, the evidence has shown only association, not causality. (After authors' summary.) -- Can. Med. Assn. J. Abst.

1147 Factors Associated With Increased Prevalence of Diabetic Retinopathy: A Clinical Survey.
A. J. Szabo, A. G. Stewart, and G. E. Joron. Can. Med. Assn. J. 97, 286-292 (August 5, 1967).

The prevalence of retinopathy was determined in 324 diabetics who had their disease for more than 10 years. This was correlated with the accumulated clinical and laboratory data in the patients' records. Severity of retinopathy increased linearly in adult diabetics with increase in the average fasting blood sugar. Increased prevalence of retinopathy was observed in patients who had frequent glycosuria, hyperglycemia, diastolic hypertension, proteinuria, bacteriuria, elevation of blood urea nitrogen and acute onset of diabetes. It also increased with the duration of the disease. Obesity, parity, serum cholesterol levels and different parameters of arteriosclerosis did not correlate with retinopathy in this group of patients. There are 16 references. -- Authors' summary

1148 Cancer of the Oral Cavity. F. Jacobsson and G. Martensson.
Nord. Med. 78, 1145-1151 (September 7, 1967).

In Sweden about 20,000 new cases of cancer are diagnosed yearly. In about 500 (2.5%) cases, the disease involves the lips, salivary glands, cavity of the mouth, or pharynx. Cancer of these sites often runs an insidious symptom-free course and in many cases the disease has reached too advanced a stage when the patient appears for examination. Early detection of pathological processes in the mouth is of greatest importance.
-- J. Am. Med. Assn. References & Reviews

1149 Extensive Cancer of the Lip. R. H. Jesse.
Arch. Surg. 94, 509 (1967).

Surgical therapy is preferred to radiotherapy for cancer of the lip for certain categories of patients at the M. D. Anderson Hospital in Houston, because the climate makes it almost impossible for active people to stay out of the sun. Operation is recommended for infiltrating cancers producing leukoplakic or precancerous changes of 40% or more of the lip, recurrences after irradiation, for younger patients who will be subjected to exposure to the sun and wind over many years, and those with cervical metastases or possible mental nerve or mandibular involvement. Radiotherapy is recommended for elderly patients who will not have prolonged outdoor exposure. Replacement of the excised tissues by pedicle graft has been acceptable and short periods of hospitalization have proved an advantage. -- Can. Med. Assn. J. Absts.

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