

tuberculous granulomatous tissue but no tumorous changes. Existence of a primary epithelial tumor of the pleura was ruled out by this.

Discussion :

Primary tumors of the peritoneum belong to the biggest rarities, particularly in their diffusely spreading form. Therefore it had to be thought from the beginning of a combination of pulmonary asbestosis with a primary epithelial tumor of the peritoneum, particularly with regard to close relation of deposition of asbestos dust to tumors of the lungs and pleura. Thus it must be first determined whether there is an accidental event here, or whether a causal relationship between deposition of asbestos and the peritoneal tumor can be proven, or at least can be made probable.

While it was hesitated in the past whether peritoneal tumors originated from lymph-vessels or from epithelium of the mucosa today they are almost generally derived from the celomic epithelium and preferably called, with Marchand, malignant epithelial tumors rather than synonymously endotheliomas, mesotheliomas or malignant peritoneal epitheliomas. Due to pluripotent abilities of the celomic epithelium histological structure of these tumors is subject to very big variety, both in an individual case and in the various observations - quite analogous with primary epithelial tumors of the pleura and pericardium - which is to be expected in embryologically identical serous surfaces of an essentially identical structure /Prinz/. Quite in agreement with the various potentials of differentiation in tissue cultures of the pleural mesothelioma /Sano, Weiss and Gault also in man occur sarcomatous forms of growth /Greer/, partly with mucous-myxomatous transformation /Rhnid and Wright/, beside formation of fissures and cavities and villous-papillary and polypous growth /Fischer, Klein and Rarei/ whose individual components appear partly predominantly and partly in motley mixture. Greer in 1950 estimated the number of the true diffuse peritoneal sarcomas in the literature to 15. Also the other forms of epithelial tumors in the abdominal cavity must be substantially rarer than primary tumors of the pleura, the number of which in autopsy material, approximately 1 % , is already very small.

Villous-papillary and small-nodular parts of our peritoneal tumor showed in part big similarity with nodules and