

OEDEMA IN PREGNANCY

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The following cases of oedema due to or associated with pregnancy, have been observed in a hospital in Northern India. With the exception of the last, all have occurred within these last eighteen months.

Oedema due to Pregnancy

1. *Due to pressure.*

V. was admitted with very oedematous legs, ankles and feet. She was observed to walk with a limp, and had a pendulous abdomen. This was her first pregnancy. She was eight months pregnant.

On examination she was found to have a contracted pelvis, and a considerable amount of hydramnios. There were no evidences of toxæmia or excessive anaemia.

For two weeks she was kept in bed, during which time the oedema somewhat abated. Then she began labour, and a Caesarian Section was performed. After the delivery the swelling began to disappear rapidly, and in ten days time she was practically free of it.

2. *Due to pre-eclamptic toxæmia.*

S. was brought in with a history of having had twelve fits. She was comatose. Her urine had albumin. It was almost solid. Blood pressure had risen to over 190. Face, hands and feet were so oedematous that it was difficult to recognize the woman. After admission she had eight more fits.

She was given pints of saline in a bowel washout, and also had a stomach washout. Magnesium sulphate was left in her stomach after the washout. She had morphia, and ether for all treatment and whenever there was a fit. For nearly a week, she showed no signs of improvement. The baby aborted when she began the fits. Then she became conscious and was able to take some fluid by the mouth. The puffiness on the face began to disappear, and then on the hands. After six weeks she was walking about with a normal blood pressure, and when she went home there was no trace of the oedema which had been such a marked feature in the beginning.

3. *Due to anaemia of pregnancy.*

S. was admitted on 15th March. Para 1. Seven and a half months amenorrhoea. Her lips were exceedingly pale, and her mucous membrane colourless. Her whole body appeared to be oedematous, and she said she had been in this condition for fifteen days. The foetal heart could not be heard, but her own heart showed hæmic murmurs. The morning after admission she was delivered of a stillborn premature child. Her hæmoglobin was twenty per cent only. She was treated with campolon injections and other forms of liver extract. In three weeks the whole of the oedema had disappeared, and her total red blood count had risen from 680,000 per c.m. to 2,600,000 per c.m.