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Surgical Treatment for 91 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis

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Although the surgical treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis is comparatively new, it is gradually gaining recognition amongst patients. the series may be classified into 4 groups :-

1. Three cases received intrapleural pneumolysis, results good.

2. 64 cases had thoracoplasty; all, under local anaesthetics (amethocaine hydrochloride); mostly 5-7-ribs thoracoplasty in one stage and apicolsis. Immediate mortality 3%; One died of haemoptysis 4 months later; one had lobectomy and one pneumonectomy later on 90% improvement. Under streptomycin cover and convalescence 12 months.

3. Plombage with Lucite balls (metyl methacrylate) in a plastic sheeting. Ten cases of unilateral plombage with 3 deaths, 3 cases of bilateral plombage with one death. Good for—patients with a low pulmonary reserve

4. Lung Resection

a Pneumonectomy 3 cases, one death

b Extrapleural pneumonectomy 2 cases all well

c Lobectomy 5 cases all well

d Segmental Resection 1 case well

For Apical tuberculosis, thoracoplasty with apicolsis is the treatment of choice; and should the symptoms persist, resection should be done at a later stage.