

ESTABLISHMENT OF A BONE TUMOUR REGISTRY

The establishment of a Bone Tumour Registry in South Africa has been under consideration for several years.

The comparative rarity of primary bone tumours, the complexity of pathological variations, the difficulties of collating clinical, radiological and histopathological features in a clear diagnostic system and a rational nomenclature led to the establishment of the now famous Registry of Bone Sarcoma of the American College of Surgeons, and since then great strides have been made in extending our knowledge of these and other tumourous lesions of bone. The continuing value of such a system of records is reflected in the emergence of similar organizations in Great Britain and the European Continent.

A Bone Tumour Registry has now been established in the Transvaal, to function both as a forum for discussing and diagnosing bone tumours and as a depository for recording and classifying such lesions. It is known as the Transvaal Bone Tumour Registry and will be operated by a Committee consisting of:

Prof. J. M. Edelstein (Chairman).

Prof. B. J. P. Becker (Vice-Chairman).

Mr. L. Solomon, orthopaedic surgeon, Johannesburg
General Hospital (Secretary).

Dr. C. Abrahams, Pathology Dept., Witwatersrand University.

Dr. L. Cohen, Head of Radiotherapy Dept., Johannesburg
General Hospital.

Mr. G. F. Dommissie, orthopaedic surgeon, Pretoria.

Dr. J. Gluckman, pathologist, Johannesburg.

Dr. J. Jacobson, radiologist, Johannesburg.

Mr. P. Keen, surgeon, Non-European Hospital, Johannesburg.

Prof. J. F. Murray, SAIMR.

Dr. A. G. Oettle, Cancer Research Unit, SAIMR.

Dr. N. S. F. Proctor, pathologist, SAIMR.

Dr. M. Shear, lecturer, Oral and Dental Hospital, Johannesburg.

The Committee meets at the end of each month to consider cases notified during the current month. With the pooling of material from all over the country it is hoped that improved precision in diagnosis as well as a greater understanding of the factors determining prognosis may result.

To a large extent the success of the Registry will depend on contributors. It would be much appreciated if practitioners would notify the secretary of the Committee of cases of Bone Tumours encountered by them. Upon receiving such notification a pro-forma will be sent to the practitioner for completion. Among other data, X-ray films and pathological material will be required by the Committee for study and the case will be discussed at the monthly meeting. The Committee will keep in touch with the practitioner concerned, give advice if requested, and will interest itself in the follow-up of the case. Practitioners submitting cases will be welcome to attend relevant meetings of the Committee. Enquiries and contributions from any part of the Republic and the Rhodesias will be appreciated.

All correspondence concerning the Registry should be directed to the Secretary, Transvaal Bone Tumour Registry, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Medical School, Hospital Street. Johannesburg.