Primary Carcinoma of the Vagina

An Analysis of 82 Cases of Squamous Cell Carcinoma

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Carcinoma of the vagina was generally considered to be incurable until the late 1930's. In 1931, de Buben [7] reviewed the data of 129 patients and found a 5-year survival of 5%. Survival rate has changed to the better during the last decades. However, it is still lower than that of cervical neoplasma [3, 8, 9, 18, 25, 30]. According to recent data the 5-year survival rates of invasive vaginal cancer range from 10 to 40% [23].

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The present report is concerned with the treatment results of 82 primary vaginal carcinomas treated from 1949 to 1978.

Material and Methods

The present report consists of the evaluation of 82 records of primary vaginal carcinoma at the Universitäts-Frauenklinik Münster treated between 1949 and 1978. They were regrouped according to the FIGO staging on the basis of data available. Patients with record of a hysterectomy were excluded when the histology revealed cervical cancer, or when treatment of any other female genital cancer preceded within the last 5 years without signs of recurrence.

Irradiation was used in nearly all cases. Interstitial therapy was based upon radium needles, in some instances supplemented by intravaginal and intrauterine radium capsule in a tandem form. The calcu-