

The Medical Roundup

by

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Treatment of Ruptures

Many people these days say that they are faced with the need for having a second operation for a big rupture in the groin or in the abdomen or in the navel. They say the surgeon plans to strengthen the place with a piece of wire screen, and they wonder if they should permit this.

I am not a surgeon, so I cannot say from personal experience, but I know that, for years, surgeons have been using such reinforcing material, and I am sure they wouldn't have gone on doing it if they hadn't gotten good results, and rarely any bad result. The metal used is one that is well-tolerated by the tissues.

What happens to some persons is that they let a rupture go so long that it gets so large that when the surgeon operates he can't find much muscle or fascia (strong fiber) on either side of the hole-muscle or fascia that he can bring together and fold over like a double-breasted coat. If there is enough strong muscle and fascia, usually the operation is successful. But if there isn't enough muscle and fascia left to work with, the rupture may break out again. It can break out again if the wound should happen to get infected.

It takes a good surgeon to repair a very large hernia so firmly that it will stay repaired. As I was writing this,

a man remarked that his wife who has recently been operated on has a rupture in her operative wound. I asked if she was a chain smoker and he said, "How on earth did you know that?" Then he went on to say, "Yes, she is a chain smoker, and has a bad cigarette cough. She just couldn't bear to cut down on her smoking and so after the operation she coughed and coughed until she tore the wound open."

Trichomoniasis in Women

Hundreds of women write begging for help because of a vaginitis due to a microscopic organism called trichomonad. Sometimes, this can be killed by vinegar douches or by vaginal suppositories, but in many cases, the parasite hides, perhaps in some of the glands around the vagina, or it gets into the bladder. Worse yet, in many cases, the husband is carrying the infestation, and so he keeps reinfesting his wife. I fear that some doctors forget this possibility and don't attend to it.

Today, I read that 97 per cent of the women with this disease can be cured by treatment with metronidazole, which must be prescribed by their physician. This also can cure the disease in the husband. Both the woman and her husband should take 250 milligrams by mouth, twice a day for 10 days. The woman also can use a vaginal suppository containing 500 milligrams of the drug. These are used once a day for the 10 days. With this treatment, douches are not used. Usually, the woman is much better after three to five days. Of 214 patients studied from one to 14 months, all but five were cured with one course of treatment with the new drug. Occasionally, there are unpleasant side effects, such as a skin rash, a brownish coat on the tongue, or a dry mouth, slight nausea or dizziness.

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The Family Council

Editor's note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, three editors and a women's editor. Each article is a summary of a family disagreement presented to the Council. The Council deals with problems, major and minor, encountered by guidance counselors and social workers. Edited by

Gayle M. - His drinking gets him fired from job after job.

Jeffrey M. - She won't let me drink at home, so I drink after work.

Gayle M. - Three years ago I married for the second time. I have two young sons by my first husband, Jeff is a construction worker and often spends Monday-to-Friday in hotels near the sites. However, no job lasts long for him because he's an alcoholic, a fact that became clear to me after our first year together. That's when I left him, but I returned when he joined my church and promised never to drink again, in accordance with my faith.

But he still drinks whenever he's away from home. He gets into bar fights. Recently I was called at 2:30 a.m. because he got his head cut. He gets very mean to my boys, and his promises are useless. Then, to make, he buys me. Then, to make up, he buys me showy things like air conditioners and a \$700 ring, when we need food. Between jobs we live on unemployment or child welfare checks. My legs are going numb and the doctor says it's because half of me wants to run away and half wants to stay. I'm sorry for Jeff.

Jeffrey M. - Gayle is just a prim blue-nose. She won't join me in any fun over the week ends, and she has a fit if she finds out I had a little diversion after work on the week days. I don't butt in on her and I think I have a right to do as I please while on the job. As long as I bring home the money she's supposed to get, what I do is my affair.

I've begged her to come along with me on week ends, to go dancing and have a drink or two. It would do her a world of good, make her more fun. If I knew I could look forward to her company, I wouldn't drink at all during the week.

But the way things are, she drives me to drink. And when I try to show her my love by buying something nice, she sniffs. She says it's for show, not for love, and not to waste money. I wish her religion made her more loving. All she cares about is church, money and her children.

The Council: One well-know fact emerges here: An

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NOT TO RECALL BOOKS
Salem - The Salem School Board said Tuesday it has decided not to recall about \$10,000 worth of public textbooks it has loaned to parochial grade schools.

they'd not have married each other, since they were presumably sane then.

The present impasse appears insoluble because each is asking the other to do something impossible. Jeff can't stop drinking. Gayle can't go dancing and drinking with him. He's caught in the alcoholic spin, and she's bound by her religious scruples. But a smack-up's around the corner unless each seeks help, whether via A.A. (for Jeff) or Al-Anon (for Gayle) or a mental health clinic.

A direct word to each, here-with: Jeff, if you were a burglar would you ask Gayle to be one, too? You imply you'd love her more if she'd become an alcoholic like you. No, respect her qualms. With help you'll find enjoyment in other kinds of fun, some of them Gayle's kind.

And Gayle, a recent study turned the spotlight on the wives of alcoholics and found them to be frequently to blame for the condition, enjoying the martyrdom of having a problem mate, doing nothing constructive to help him achieve control. Show you're not one of these. Do your part.

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