

MALIGNANT TUMOURS OF THE FEMALE GENITAL ORGANS—A STUDY OF PATHOLOGICAL SPECIMENS FROM SEVEN THOUSAND AND TWENTY-TWO SRI LANKAN WOMEN

Lalitha N. Mendis and Daphne Attygalle

(Departments of Microbiology and Pathology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, Colombo 8)

Malignant tumours of the female genital tract accounted for over 50% of all malignancies in Sri Lankan women. 65% of such malignancies occurred in the uterine cervix and 14% in the ovary. Recent studies on patients admitted to the Cancer Hospital, Maharagama, confirm this high incidence of carcinoma of the cervix but show a comparatively lower incidence of ovarian malignancies. Since referral of patients to the Cancer Hospital is highly selective we decided to study material sent from General Hospital for diagnostic histopathology to the University Pathology Unit in Colombo over the 5 year period, 1976-1980.

Of the 7,022 biopsies from the female genital tract 258 (3.7%) were malignant. Commonest were lesions in the uterine cervix (53.9%) and ovary (23.6%). The incidence of malignant tumours of the body of the uterus, vagina, vulva and broad ligament were 15.5%, 3.5%, 2.7% and 0.8% respectively. The predominant histological type seen in the cervix was squamous carcinoma (93.5%) while ovarian and uterine tumours were mainly adeno-carcinomas (68.9% and 67.5%). The highest incidence of these malignancies was in the 41-60 year age group. There was no significant association between these tumours and ethnic groups.