GENETICS

ENDOCRINOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS IN OPERATED CASES OF CRYPTORCHISM

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A questionnaire was sent to 200 young men operated on for cryptorchism mostly at 5—8 years age. 93 of them attended personally a follow-up investigation performed mostly 8—10 years later. At the follow-up investigation the clinical endocrinological state, the bone age, the chromatin sex (in all cases) and the karyotype (in 10), a semen investigation (in 41) and a histological investigation of the testes (in 8) was considered. 33 of the patients were bilateral cases, 38 right-sided and 22 left-sided.

Three cases were sex chromatin positive. Two of them showed the 47/XXY karyotype and the third 48/XXYY. Sterile semen was found in 4 patients (3 bilateral cases), subfertile semen in 17 cases (12 bilateral) and fertile semen in 20 (7 bilateral). No semen was obtained in two cases of Klinefelter's syndrome and in 2 cases of hypogonadotrophic hypogonadism.

The 93 operated cryptorchism patients included 3 with Klinefelter's syndrome, 2 with hypogonadotrophic hypogonadism, 2 with germinal cell aplasia (one probable), and one case with sterile semen but rather normal testicle histology and hormonal development. Of the patients 18 years old or younger 6 showed retardation of the skeletal age of 1½ years or more and 6 an advancement of the skeletal age of 1½ years or more.

The results are interpreted as showing that among cases of cryptorchism roughly 8 % are distinct endocrinological disturbances but that the operation as such, when performed properly (orchidofuniculysis and orchidopexy according to Ombredanne in this series) does not as a rule interfere with endocrine development.

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