COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF 6,000 CONSECUTIVE FIBEROPTIC AND LENS GASTROSCOPIES

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The authors present an analytical study and report of the experience of a single individual gastroscopist, the senior reporter, who has always recorded his gastroscopies in chronological serial numbers. This experience covers 34 consecutive years comprising practically the entire era of modern gastroscopy. While gross statistics by many different examiners from separate geographic areas have certain values, we believe that this study has the control value of criteria and interpretations of a single individual gastroscopist.

The study reports the incidence of gastric cancer classified as to types, diagnostic accuracy as compared with x-ray and proven by surgery or postmortem. Similar analyses and follow-up are applied to benign and malignant gastric ulcers, polyps, rarer tumors, postoperative stomachs, gastritis with its controversial concepts and normal stomachs. The data is broken down into consecutive decades and semi-decades and comparisons are made with the experiences of other gastroscopists in America and other countries. The senior author's comparative experience which began with training by Rudolf Schindler is discussed with reference to the Wolf-Schindler, A C M I-Benedict operating scope, Cameron Omni-Angle, Eder-Palmer, Eder-Berry, Olympus G T F and G T F-A, and other fiberoptic instruments. Further discussions in the analysis include the statistical comparisons and advantages of "multiple patient positions" on the examining table and the evaluation by questionnaire of the effectiveness of teaching techniques while training approximately 280 graduate students from many parts of the world in gastroscopic techniques and pathology. The incidence of gastroscopic failures and accidents are also discussed. The paper will be illustrated by spectacular case reports, still and cinematic photography.