

Siegel

March 22, 1965

Howard Siegel, M.D.
Section on Gastroenterology
New York Medical College
Flower & Fifth Avenue Hospitals
Fifth Avenue at 106th Street
New York, New York 10029

Dear Doctor Siegel:

I am very sorry that I did not receive your letter of January 29, 1965. The Cook County Hospital is a tremendous institution with several hundreds of doctors, and it is not unusual for mail for the visiting staff not to be delivered. However, I did receive the letter of Dr. Katz on February 24, some two weeks later.

In answer to your question with reference to gastrobiopsies with the Eder-Berry gastrobiopsy instrument, I have had some cases in which there was an excessive infiltration of hemorrhage, but not the high percentage that you record.

I would like to suggest that your suction be increased. I always use about 20 mm. of mercury, or twenty units of suction with the standard suction machines. I do not time the length of the suction period, but I have the patient to breathe very slowly; and when I observe the mucosa to be completely still or nearly still (usually after perhaps 20 seconds or more), I take my bite. I usually take a half dozen bites around the focal point. It is necessary to be sure that all systems are air tight. Occasionally I find it necessary to have an assistant to make pressure on the abdomen at the time of biopsy, particularly if I am trying to reach the antrum. Whether this would increase the amount of bleeding, I cannot be absolutely certain. We had two sizes of apertures -- I hope you are working with the larger diameter, although there was not much difference in the diameter.

I trust that these suggestions may be helpful; if not, I will be glad to answer any questions which it is possible for me to answer at any time. In the future, please use the above address.

With sincerest regards and best wishes, I am

Very truly yours,

Leonidas H. Berry, M.D.

LHB/ld
CC: Dr. David Katz