



Inflammation of the Vermiform Appendix: Its Results, Diagnosis, and Treatment, Together With the Reports of Seven Cases of Excision of the Vermiform ... of Five of the Patients (Classic Reprint)

Thomas G. Morton

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Excerpt from Inflammation of the Vermiform Appendix: Its Results, Diagnosis, and Treatment, Together With the Reports of Seven Cases of Excision of the Vermiform Appendix for Perforative Appendicitis, With Exhibition of Five of the Patients

Laparotomy for perforative appendicitis, with removal of the organ, is now an established surgical procedure, and yet so recently has this operation been introduced that I am able to present the patient upon whom I operated in April, 1887, for pericæcal abscess with peritonitis, which I believe represents the first successful operation for the removal of the vermiform appendix in a case of this kind, based upon correct diagnosis.

It is true that Hall, of New York, in 1886, in an abscess associated with right inguinal hernia, after evacuating the abscess, had discovered and removed an ulcerated appendix, and the patient recovered; but the diagnosis of perforative appendicitis was not made until after the abscess was opened. More recently, a number of cases of excision of the appendix have been reported by Weir, Treves, Nancrede, and others.

In the case to which I have referred and now present, general peritonitis was developing; the history and symptoms indicated abscess, and pointed to the appendix as the cause of trouble. Upon incision, an abscess cavity was entered at a depth of an inch or more below the external surface, a free flow of pus followed, and the cæcum and its diseased appendix, which was perforated, came into view. The latter was excised, the peritoneal cavity washed free of pus and drained, with immediate relief and prompt recovery.

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