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UNO SGUARDO ALLA STORIA Harvey Williams Cushing e l'adenoma basofilo dell'ipofisi Roberto Toni

Riportiamo di seguito la Figura 2 con la didascalia corretta.

THE BASOPHIL ADENOMAS OF THE PITUITARY BODY AND THEIR CLINICAL MANIFESTATIONS (PITUITARY BASOPHILESM)

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Introduction. In a long since superseded monograph on the pituitary body and its disorders, published in 1912, a section was devoted to a group of cases which showed peculiar and sundry polyglandular syndromes. It was stated at the time that the term "polyglandular syndrome" implied nothing more than that secondary functional alterations occur in the ductless-gland series whenever the activity of one of the glands becomes primarily affected; and further, that the term, as employed, was restricted to those cases in which it was difficult to tell where the initial fault lay.

That a primary derangement of the pituitary gland, whether occurring spontaneously or experimentally induced, was particularly prone to cause widespread changes in other endocrine organs was appreciated even at that early day, and it was strongly suspected that this centrally placed and well protected structure in all probability represented the master-gland of the endocrine series. The multiglandular hyperplasias of acromegaly, as evident in the thyroid gland and adrenal cortex, were already known, and the no less striking atrophic alterations in these same glands brought about by the counter state of pituitary insufficiency were coming to be equally well recognised. But in spite of these hopeful signs, we were still groping blindly for an explanation of many other diseases, obviously of endocrine origin, like those associated with palsy, parathyroid or suprarenal tumours. Out of this obscurity, those seriously interested in the subject have, step by step, been finding their way in spite of pitfalls and stumbling blocks innumerable.

The usual method of progression has been somewhat as follows. A peculiar clinical syndrome has first been described by someone with a clarity sufficient to make it easily recognizable by others. This syndrome in course of time has been found to be associated either with a destructive lesion or with a tumefaction primarily involving one or an-

¹ The subject matter of this paper was ventilated at the New York Academy of Medicine, January 2, 1909; at the Yale Medical School, February 6th, 1909, and at the Johns Hopkins Hospital Medical Society, February 20, 1909.

caso	anno	sexo	ipofisi	surrene
Cushing	1919	♀	-	-
Turney	1913	♀	N	iperpl. sn.
Anderson	1915	♀	microad.bas.	iperpl. bilat.
Reichmann	1919	♀	sarcoma ?	iperpl. sn.
Zondek	1923	♀	massa fibrosa	N
Oppenheimer	1924	♀	Rx ↑ sella	-
Weber	1926	♀	microad. bas.	N, ↑ midollare
Teel	1931	♀	microad. bas.	iperpl. bilat.
Friedman	1921	♂	-	-
Mooser	1921	♂	N	N
Raab	1924	♂	microad. bas.	N
Cushing	1930	♂	Rx N sella	-
Wieth-Pedersen	1931	♂	macroad.	iperpl. sn

Figura 2 - A) Frontespizio dell'articolo di Cushing sul *Bulletin* del 1932. B) Tabella riassuntiva dei 13 pazienti analizzati da Cushing nel lavoro del 1932 sul *Bulletin*. - = nessun dato, N = normale, iperpl = iperplasia, sn = sinistro; bilat = bilaterale, microad bas = microadenoma basofilo, macroad = macroadenoma; Rx = radiografia, ↑ = aumento dimensionale. C) Paziente citato da Cushing e studiato a Praga nel 1924 nella clinica di Biedl (noto per la complessa sindrome neuroendocrina a carattere autosomico recessivo di Laurence-Moon-Biedl-Bardet) da William Raab. Si noti la presenza di microadenoma ipofisario (ingrandimento x 9), che comprime la neuroipofisi, caratterizzato da cellule basofile multinucleate (ingrandimento x 850), riconosciuto dal patologo E.J. Kraus. D) Paziente studiato da Cushing al Brigham Hospital di Boston nel 1930. Cushing tentò di trattare la poliuria con iniezioni di estratto di ipofisi posteriore, senza successo e la supposta patologia ipofisaria con 4 sedute di irradiazione esterna, che ridussero rapidamente un'ampia infezione cutanea, la polidipsia, la glicosuria, l'iperglicemia e favorirono una ripresa del benessere generale. E) Frontespizio dell'articolo di Julius Bauer che introduce il termine "morbo di Cushing".