Shoulder-hand syndrome in patients with ovarian carcinoma

SIR, Following the recent report by Taggart *et al.*,¹ we wish to report a further case of severe shoulder-hand syndrome in a patient with ovarian carcinoma. This 43-year-old patient presented in November 1983 with ascites. At laparotomy she was found to have peritoneal spread of an undifferentiated ovarian adenocarcinoma. She was treated with treosulfan in a dose of 250 mg twice daily for one week, followed by two weeks off, for a period of several months. The treatment was followed by shrinkage of peritoneal fluid and improvement in general well-being. In April 1984 she began to complain of pain and swelling in her hands and shoulders and discomfort in her knees and ankles. Both hands were oedematous and the skin eventually became fixed to the underlying tissues, especially in her fingers, where she developed severe fixed

flexion deformities. Similar changes were observed in her feet. Her shoulders were stiff and painful. Treosulfan was stopped and prednisolone was given in a dose of 30 mg daily. This reduced the discomfort in her shoulders, but had little effect on the oedema and eventual fibrotic sclerodermatous appearance of her hands, which remained unchanged until her death in June 1984.

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References

- 1 Taggart A J, Iveson J M I, Wright V. Shoulder-hand syndrome and symmetrical arthralgia in patients with tubo-ovarian carcinoma. *Ann Rheum Dis* 1984; **43**: 391-3.

Notes

'Viewpoint' articles

Under this general heading articles will appear which are intended to present a personal view of themes currently interesting to rheumatologists. Contributions in not more than 1500 words are welcome, but it is suggested that readers wishing to submit such articles should first discuss their subject and scope with the Editor.

The Third Carl M Pearson Memorial Symposium

This symposium on the 'Frontiers of Rheumatology' will be held on 8-10 March 1985 at the Annenberg Center for Health Sciences, California. Details from the Annenberg Center for Health Sciences, Eisenhower Medical Center, 39000 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270, USA.