

(HEMORRHOIDS)

Piles, like the poor, are always with us, even in the midst of war. There were 295 cases of hemorrhoids treated in the 12th General Hospital. Eighty of these cases were treated in Africa; 128 cases were treated in Rome, Italy and 87 cases were treated in Leghorn, Italy.

Table 1 (Incidence of Hemorrhoids)

'		'
'	Africa ----- 80 cases	'
'	Rome, Italy --- 128 "	'
'	Leghorn, Italy-- 87 "	'
'	Total -- 295 cases	'
'		'
'		'

Type of Hemorrhoids:

Of the 295 cases, 60 were cases of Internal Hemorrhoids; 96 cases were cases of External Hemorrhoids and 149 cases were combined Internal and External Hemorrhoids.

Table 2 (Types of Hemorrhoids)

'		'
'	Internal Hemorrhoids ----- 60 cases	'
'	External Hemorrhoids ----- 96 "	'
'	Comb. Int. & Ext. Hemorrhoid 149 "	'
'	Total ---- 295 cases	'
'		'

Operation for Hemorrhoids:

181 of these cases of Hemorrhoids were operated upon at the 12th General Hospital. Ligation and excision of the hemorrhoids, being the operation performed in each case.

Twenty-two cases had had hemorrhoid ectomy operations prior to entry into the 12th General Hospital and were recuperating.

Ninety-two cases were treated expectantly by Hot Sitz Baths and local hot applications and mineral oil internally. These cases cleared up without operation. These cases were chosen for this type of treatment on account of being of a mild nature.

Table 3 (Operations for Hemorrhoids)

'		'
'	Operations at 12th Gen. Hosp. ----- 181	'
'	Operation at other Hospitals ----- 22	'
'	No Operation ----- 92	'
'	Total ---- 295	'
'		'

Disposition of Hemorrhoid Cases:

The 276 cases, or 93% of the total 295 were returned to A Duty; 7 cases were returned to temporary limited duty because they needed to be reconditioned before returning to A Duty. 13 cases were sent to permanent limited duty account of the fact there were existing complicative diseases, or injuries which prevented them from doing regular A Duty. Details of such complicative diseases and injuries are given in Table #4.

Table 4 - (Cause for Limited Duty Disposition)

Psychoneurosis	3
Chronic Myositis	1
Poor physical stamina	1
Varicocele complications	1
Chronic Bronchitis	1
Chronic Arthritis of the knee	1
Allergic Rhinitis	1
Pes Planus	1
Painful Hernial Scar	1
Chronic Back Strain	1
Defective Eyesight	1
Total	13

None of the cases sent to permanent limited duty were so disposed of on account of any complications, or sequelae of the original hemorrhoid condition.

Nine cases were transferred to the Zone of Interior because of existing conditions which prevented them from doing military duty in this theater. Table V gives the causes for transfer to the Zone of Interior for the individual cases.

Table 5 - (Cause for Transfer to Zone of Interior)

Psychoneurosis	5 cases
Spondylolisthesis	1 "
Chronic sinusitis	1 "
Prolapse of Rectum	1 "
Rectal stenosis	1 "
Total	9 cases

Two of the nine cases transferred to the Zone of Interior were sent for conditions complicative their hemorrhoidal operations.

Hospital Days:

295 patients spent 8,028 hospital days in the 12th General Hospital while being treated for hemorrhoids. This is an average of 27.21 hospital days per patient.

SUMMARY:

295 cases of hemorrhoids were treated in the 12th General Hospital. 181 cases, or 61.35% of the total were operated upon at the 12th General Hospital. 22 cases, or 7.46% were operated elsewhere. 92 cases, or 31.19% were treated expectantly without operation. 276 cases, or 93% of the total 295 returned to A Duty; 20 others returned to B Duty, while only 9 cases were transferred to the Zone of Interior and thereby lost from this theater. Only 2% of these cases were returned to the Zone of Interior on account of conditions complicating the rectal operations.

An average of 27.21 hospital days per patient were spent in the 12th General Hospital.

The minor surgical disease, hemorrhoids is one from which the soldier commonly suffers. It is of military significance in that many hospital days are required for its treatment and in an overseas theater, hospital beds are at times at a premium. It is only temporarily disabling as far as the soldier is concerned, as practically all the sufferers are eventually returned to duty. In this series of 295 cases, only nine patients were transferred to the Zone of Interior. Only two cases, or less than 1% of the total 295 cases were lost from military duty on account of disease and the sequelae of its treatment.