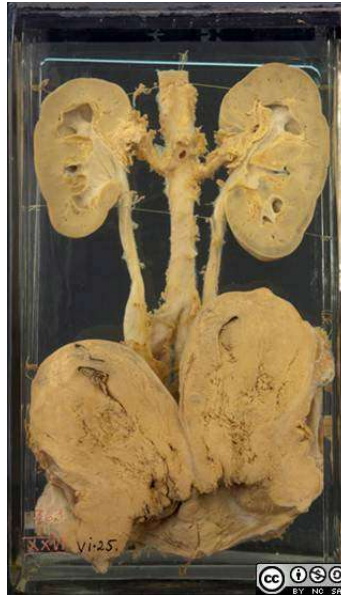


Carcinoma of the cervix



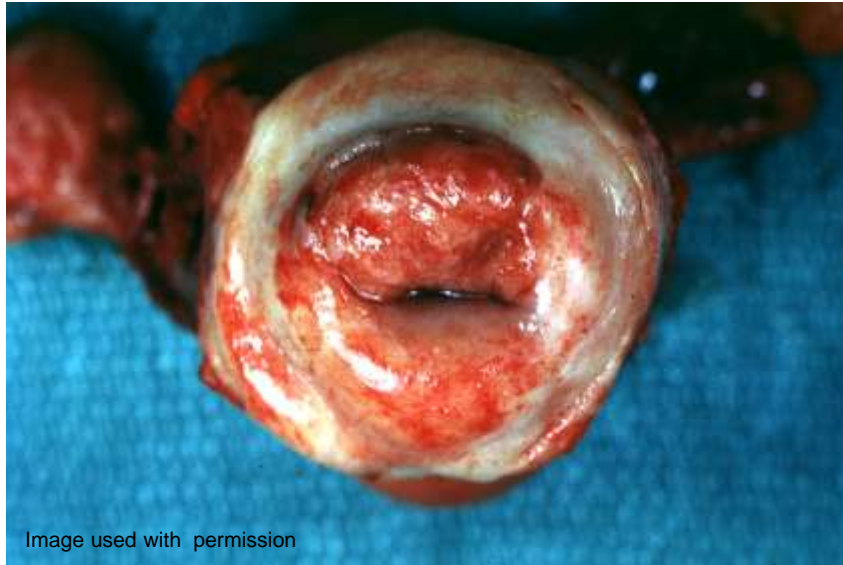
Digital Pathology Collection

Case 15 2011

Ref XXVI:vi:25



From this ...to this
is entirely preventable



Early invasive cervical squamous carcinoma

- *removed by hysterectomy*

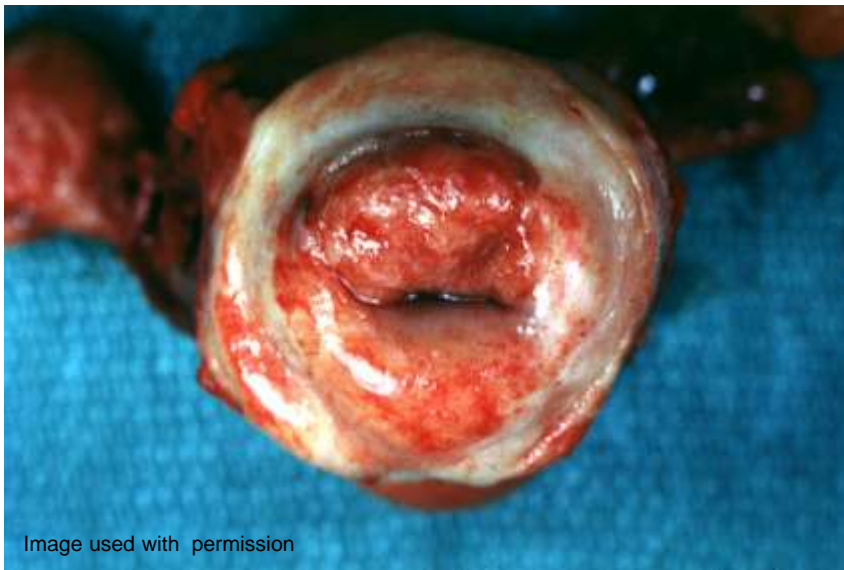


Image used with permission

Image 1350 from Peir Digital Library – public access image database

<http://peir.path.uab.edu>

University of Alabama at Birmingham, Department of Pathology

Advanced cervical carcinoma with urinary obstruction

- *removed at autopsy*



UCT pathology teaching collection



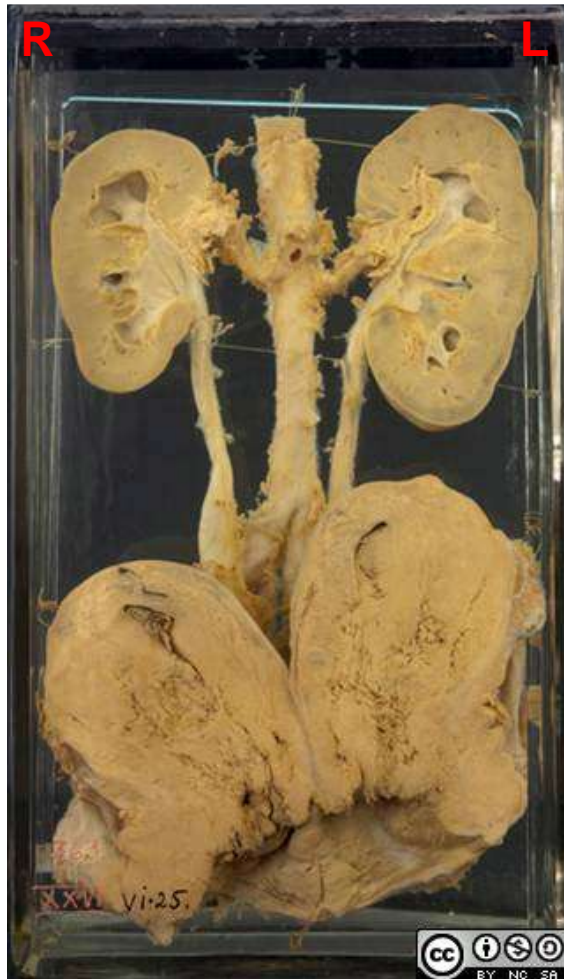
University of Cape Town


Clinical data

- The patient was an elderly woman who presented with post-menopausal bleeding, a foul smelling vaginal discharge, pain in the lower abdomen, dysuria and urinary frequency.
- On vaginal examination a large fungating growth of the cervix was found.
- She was given radiotherapy (palliative) but two weeks later she became mentally confused, then comatose, and died.



At autopsy



- The specimen shows, in the lower half, the bisected uterus and cervix (flapped open)  and base of bladder.



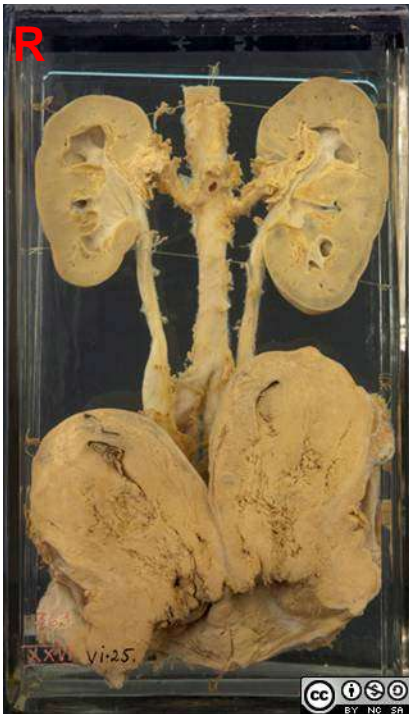
At autopsy



- The specimen shows, in the lower half, the bisected uterus and cervix (flapped open) and base of bladder.
- All these are extensively infiltrated by tumour tissue.



- Just above the bladder the right ureter disappears into tumour.
- Both ureters are dilated, the right more so.
- The right kidney is atrophied while the left kidney is enlarged.
- This indicates that obstruction of the right ureter preceded that of the left by a long enough interval to allow some compensatory hypertrophy of the left kidney.



Comment

- **Most patients with stage IV carcinoma of the cervix die in uraemia (renal failure)** – this is explained by the anatomical proximity of the ureters to the cervix, just before they enter the bladder.
- Advanced cervical carcinomas extend directly into contiguous tissues – vagina, rectum, bladder, ureters, paracervical tissue.
- Obstruction of the ureters by tumour extension causes back pressure on the kidney, with dilatation of the renal pelvis and calyx, and atrophy of the functional renal parenchyma (=hydronephrosis).
- Infection (pyelonephritis) often supervenes.



A useful link

- Run through images 1 – 15 (covering cervix and vagina) on this WebPath page

<http://library.med.utah.edu/WebPath/FEMHTML/FEMIDX.html#2>





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