

SERV. NAC. DE SALUD
HOSPITAL REGIONAL DE CONCEPCION
SERVICIO DE CIRUGIA
JEFE: Dr. IGNACIO GONZALEZ G.

IGG/evo

CONCEPCION, 1 de Febrero de 1955.-

Dr.
Henry Swan
Colorado General Hospital
DENVER, COLO.

My dear Dr. Swan:

In TIME magazine I have just read about the operation you performed in a bad case of caustic burn with stenosis of the esophagus.- In case this is a paper you have published, I would like you to send me a reprint of it.

I am preparing a paper on this subject and as my experience with the traditional conservative treatment is positively bad in the cases that have lost much of the epithelium and whose deep and extensive burn lead fatally to an undilatable stenosis, I am advocating a much more aggressive attitude, very like yours in that case.

Esophageal caustic burns are rather common in Chile but in adults, due to a fatal mistake: the worker (usually a welder or a painter) that comes late in the night well drunk, feels thirsty and gulps from the bottle right there, over the table or the closet; the bottle contains no warve or wine but nitric or sulphuric acid or soda caustica that he himself or his wife uses in their work.

A large group of cases heals usually without stenosis at least clinical or subjective; others can manage his stenosis well with periodic dilatations; but some are fatally condemned to cachexia and death in spite of dilatations, gastrostomies, intubations etc etc., after a painful via crucis that can last even for month or years.

It is my considered opinion that a more radical or aggressive policy must be applied to these cases in due time, as soon as the evolution of the case makes it certain that the traditional treatment does not work, and before the deterioration of the nutritional state of the patient makes the radical operation more and more difficult and dangerous...

My experience so far has been encouraging.

SERV. NAC. DE SALUD
HOSPITAL REGIONAL DE CONCEPCION
SERVICIO DE CIRUGIA
JEFE: Dr. IGNACIO GONZALEZ G.

That is why I am interested in your paper on the subject as well as in any biographical data or reference.

I always remember my visit to you in 1952; hope you may come to see us.- Maybe next year for the next southern American meeting of the American College of Surgeon that will be held in Santiago.

Kind regards to your family.- Sincerely yours,

BIBLIOTECAS UdeC

Dr. Ignacio González G.