

# RELATION OF CARCINOMA IN SITU TO INVASIVE CARCINOMA OF THE CERVIX UTERI

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## 1. Introduction

The quantitative measurements used to express the rate of occurrence of disease and the magnitude of its accumulation are, respectively, incidence and prevalence. Incidence is the number of cases of a disease being produced by a population over time and is expressed as a rate of production per unit of time per unit of population. Prevalence, on the other hand, is the number of persons in the population having the disease at any moment in time, and as a rate is expressed as the number of cases per unit of population. Prevalence of disease, then, may be looked upon as accumulated incidence.

## 2. Interrelationship of incidence and prevalence of disease

Incidence of disease is the prime interest of the epidemiologist since he is concerned with determining the probability in some period of time of a nondiseased individual within a defined population developing the disease in question. Since the state of the same individual without disease and with disease is a function of time, incidence of disease, like prevalence, also has its relationship to a moment in time. However, with incidence this moment is the point of time in the evolution of the disease when the disease can be said to exist. The implication is clear from this that the distinction can be made fairly sharply in disease development time when an individual is free of and when he is a victim of a disease. For diseases of identifiable, exogenous origin that run an acute course this is not a particularly important problem. But for diseases of unknown or uncertain causation that run an insidious and protracted course the point in the disease development time when disease is said to have its beginning may be very arbitrary and artificial.

It has been said that there are no diseased people but only sick people. Medicine has developed a system for categorizing sick people into diseased people. To paraphrase Humpty Dumpty, our labels for disease mean exactly what we choose they shall mean—nothing more and nothing less. Our concept of disease has traditionally been that we start out with sick people and the problem of