CHAPTER - 5

DISCUSSION

I  Discussion

II  Cancer and Age On the Psychodynamic Plane: Conclusive Obstructions.
1. Learned helplessness, irrespective of age, is the function of laryngo-pharyngeal cancer. Serious somatic disorders are likely to lead to psychological disturbance as inferred in earlier studies of Hansen's disease (Chauhan et al., 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985), coronary/ischemic heart disease (Kohli and Dhar, 1985, 86; Hatter 1986; Mehta and Dhar, Hooda and Dhar, 1988a, 1988b), tuberculosis (Anastasi, 1979) and other such disorders stands confirmed. The finding is further strengthened by the fact that there were 4 cases of laryngo-pharyngeal cancer, which amounts to 10% of total sample of the patients, who were diagnosed to suffer also from depression and other neurotic disorders.

2. Laryngo-pharyngeal cancer promotes learned helplessness even in the absence of the crucial variable of age is an indicator that physical disability or disorder often has a profound effect upon behaviour (Agrawal and Dhar, 1983).

3. The findings, age promotes learned helplessness (Lata and Dhar, 1988), is not supported by the present study. Although interaction between laryngo-pharyngeal cancer and age has demonstrated a significant effect upon learned helplessness, it can be said that
either the disease under focus is affecting behaviour so intensely that if cuts through the levels of age to the extent of rendering the later variable insignificant, or the sample is not large enough to demonstrate the significant effect of age; hence indicating further study on a larger sample.

**LARYNGO-PHARYNGEAL CANCER AND AGE ON THE PSYCHODYNAMIC PLANE: CONCLUSIVE OBSERVATIONS:**

As a result of persistent helplessness in the patients, it can be concluded that onset of a somatic disorder is followed by an alarming devastation on the psychological plane. The heightened state of learned helplessness in the patients of laryngo-pharyngeal cancer can be attributed to their reactions to imminent death or to an uncertain life span. Although laryngo-pharyngeal cancer has shown a substantial psychodynamic reaction on the psychic plane, normal population is distinctly free of such atypical reactions. It appears that expression of a disorder may be physical or functional, but involvement is that of the 'whole' organism.

The pathological state on the psychological plane of the patients must be checked and remedied through
education and (psychological) counselling. Everybody surrounding the patient should be made aware of the brighter side of the facts. Pessimism should be strictly discouraged.