The surgical management of preauricular sinus in children

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ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION

Preauricular sinuses are common congenital abnormality of the external ear. To review the outcome of the surgical management of pre-auricular sinuses in children.

Aim: The clinical records of paediatric patients who underwent surgical excision of pre-auricular sinus in the Department of Otolaryngology of KK Children’s and Women’s Hospital between January 1997 and March 2009 were retrospectively reviewed. Patients were categorized to two groups, based on the method used to assist in sinus tract visualisation or delineation: 1) Microscope group 2) Methylene blue dye and probe group. The overall recurrence rate was 2.4% (95% confidence interval (CI), 0.7-6.4). Surgical excision with microscope guidance had significantly lower recurrence rate (0.9%) compared to surgical excision with methylene blue dye and probe guidance (4.3%), with an odds ratio of 28.4 (CI, 1.2-659.9, P = 0.037). The complication rates were not statistically significant between the two groups.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

The clinical records of pediatric patients who underwent surgical excision of preauricular sinus were included in this study. Nine patients were categorized into two groups, based on the method used to assist in sinus tract visualisation or delineation: 1) Microscope group 2) Methylene blue dye and probe group. The overall recurrence rate was 2.4% (95% confidence interval (CI), 0.7-6.4). Surgical excision with microscope guidance had a significantly lower recurrence rate (0.9%) compared to surgical excision with methylene blue dye and probe guidance (4.3%), with an odds ratio of 28.4 (CI, 1.2-659.9, P = 0.037). The complication rates were not statistically significant between the two groups.

CONCLUSIONS

Surgical excision of preauricular sinus under microscope guidance and under methylene blue dye and probe guidance in our series have very low overall recurrence and complication rates compared to the literature. The microscope group has a statistically lower recurrence rate in comparison to the methylene blue dye and probe group.

REFERENCES


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