Classification System for Lateral Pharyngotomy

Courtney B. Shires, MD 1; David W. Rodwell, MD 1; Chafeek Tomeh, MD 1; Merry E. Sebelik, MD 1; Sandeep Samant, MD 1
1University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Department of Otolaryngology

ABSTRACT

1. Propose a classification system of lateral pharyngotomy; lateral pharyngotomy; mandibulotomy; and transoral laser excision and all centers are not trained in this skill, LP may be useful in this situation. Additionally, the transhyoid approach is useful for approaching tumors of the base of tongue, but not tumors of the base of tongue. 3. Each class is separated into several subtypes based on the structures divided in each category of LP.

INTRODUCTION

Lateral pharyngotomy (LP) provides exposure of various sites of the oropharynx, supraglottis, and hypopharynx. Many authors have described its use for the treatment of tumors. Various modifications of the traditional lateral pharyngotomy have been described for resection of lesions of the lateral tongue base. We performed three modifications of the traditional lateral pharyngotomy approach and labeled them Type II, Type III, and Type IV. As in staging of head and neck malignancies, a widely accepted classification system facilitates comparison of incidence, treatment, and outcomes. We were able to expose simple structures such as Laccourreye without disrupting the hyoid bone.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

We performed three modifications of the traditional lateral pharyngotomy approach and labeled them Type II, Type III, and Type IV. As in staging of head and neck malignancies, a widely accepted classification system facilitates comparison of incidence, treatment, and outcomes. We were able to expose simple structures such as Laccourreye without disrupting the hyoid bone.

RESULTS

Three other maneuvers were then systematically performed to provide greater access. These were labeled Type II, III, and IV. With the addition of Type II LP, the epiglottis and ipsilateral base of tongue were visible. Type III LP allowed visualization of all the base of tongue, the uvula, and the soft palate. Type IV LP provided additional visualization of the vallecula in 2 of 3 cadavers.

CONCLUSIONS

Several approaches including supraglottic, transoral, and lateral pharyngotomy pharyngotomy, mandibulotomy, and transoral laser excision and all centers are not trained in this skill, LP may be useful in this situation. Additionally, the transhyoid approach is useful for approaching tumors of the base of tongue, but not tumors of the base of tongue. This anatomic study illustrates the structures requiring division to provide access to a given tumor location.

REFERENCES