INTRODUCTION

Postauricular cutaneous mastoid fistulas are uncommon complications of chronic ear disease. Repairs to close the postauricular fistula are difficult because of scarring and poor blood supply in this area. Various techniques have been utilized to repair this complicated problem. In our report, we introduce a novel technique using a double layer closure in addition to the cutaneous closure through a single postauricular incision with successful lasting results.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

The postauricular region is cleaned and the fistula (Figure 1) and fistula tract are visualized (Figure 2). A wide postauricular incision encompassing the fistula is utilized. Under the operating microscope, dissection is carried to the periosteum and the fistulous tract is identified. Anteriorly, the conchal cartilage is released from the surrounding tissue. This flap is then rotated to cover the fistula site (Figure 4 and 5).

RESULTS

Four patients have been managed utilizing the same operative technique with double layer closure over a 10 year period. Patients were followed for 8 to 48 months. There were no complications associated with the treatment of the postauricular cutaneous mastoid fistula. All patients had successful closure the fistula tract postoperatively without evidence of reformation.

CONCLUSION

Cutaneous mastoid fistulas are often the result of repeated postauricular approaches for surgical treatment of mastoid infections, and can be difficult to surgically manage. These postauricular fistulas can be managed with long-term success using a novel double layer closure technique using temporalis muscle and fascia and conchal cartilage with skin.

REFERENCES

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