Objective: To determine the prevalence, demographics and perioperative outcomes of ambulatory laryngopharyngeal surgeries performed in the US, and to investigate potential changes over a ten year period. Study Design: Cross-sectional, population-based study of representative US demographic and laryngopharyngeal surgery cases from the National Surveys of Ambulatory Surgery database (NSAS). Methods: All cases with at least one performed procedure in the pharynx or larynx were included in the study. Data regarding gender, age, facility type, principal payer, patient disposition, and anesthesia type and administration were extracted and analyzed. Additionally, the 2006 database was assessed for frequency of reported complications. Results: Approximately 171,000 and 180,000 ambulatory laryngopharyngeal surgeries were performed in 1996 and 2006, respectively. An increasing number of surgeries were performed in 1996 compared to hospitals during the ten year period. Unexpected admission rate after surgery was steady at less than 4%. While minor complications were present in about 9% of all procedures, no serious adverse events were observed. Although not statistically significant, the percentage of certain complications, such as cardiac arrest, dysphagia, emphysematous, syncope, blood transfusion, accidental hypothermia, anemia, airway obstruction, malignant hypertension, shock, or hypoxia, increased from 1996 to 2006.

Conclusions

To our knowledge, this is the first study to evaluate the prevalence, demographics and characteristics of ambulatory laryngopharyngeal surgeries. Findings of the current study demonstrate low complication and admission rates, and authenticate the safety of these procedures in an outpatient setting. These results could establish a foundation for further studies on ambulatory laryngopharyngeal surgeries to assess the accompanying risk factors.

References