

The value of fibrin sealant in thyroid surgery without drainage.

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Abstract:

Fibrin sealant is widely used to achieve complete hemostasis in many fields of surgery. A retrospective review of the surgical management of 81 patients with thyroid diseases between 1992 and 1998 was undertaken to determine if drainage after thyroid surgery could be safely avoided and substituted by fibrin sealing before closure of the wound. Complications were few and resulted in one patient with hoarseness, four minor oedemas and one case of unexplained fever during 48 h. The subjective discomfort from the collar incision was unusual and aesthetic healing was obtained in most of the cases (93.8%). These results suggest that the application of fibrin sealant can be advocated in thyroid surgery as an adjunct to a good surgical procedure and perhaps that prophylactic drainage is unnecessary.