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Retroauricular incision: A New Surgical Technique on Selected Parotid Gland Cases

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Introduction

Parotidectomy is usually done by 'Lazy S' incision (pre auricular - mastoid - cervical), may cause ragged scars & skin deformity. Minimally invasive parotidectomy or para-auricular is also alternative of 'Lazy S' incision entails less scarring.

Objective

Aim of the study was to evaluate the surgical treatment of Parotid Swelling in selected group of patients by retro-auricular incision.

Method

Total number of patients-Sixty two (62). Patients suffering from pleomorphic adenoma (40), chronic parotitis(2), mucoepidermoidcarcinoma (9), Warthin's tumor (5), tuberculosis (3), adenocarcinoma (1), benign parotid cyst (2) were reviewed. Superficial parotidectomies were done in all cases by retro auricular incision.

Results

Retro auricular incision has very good aesthetic result and no visible incision mark from the first post-operative day. All patients were very happy with no visible scar/incision mark. Temporary post-operative facial weakness developed in 4 cases & no permanent facial nerve palsy. 2 cases suffered

from infection (one patient was diabetic and one had very thin skin flap) and 2 patients suffered from Frey's syndrome, 2 patients from sialoceles and 1 from salivary fistula. Twenty patients suffered from hypoesthesia of the operative area. Transient ear discomfort occurred in 15 patients. These complications have been described by other surgeons, by other incisions for parotidectomy operation.

Conclusion

Parotidectomy by retro auricular incision may be highly acceptable procedure both from aesthetic point of view as well as surgical approach.

