

The study on post-tonsillectomy pain relief and wound healing by using Bismuth Iodoform Paraffin Paste (BIPP) on dissected tonsillar bed

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Tonsillectomy is one of the most common operations performed by ORL-HNS surgeons worldwide. Despite being frequently done, recent surveys have emphasized the insufficient quality of postoperative pain management and the need for further improvements. In saying so, safe and effective post-tonsillectomy pain relief remains a clinical dilemma. The aim of this study is to evaluate the efficacy of applying BIPP, to be in contact with the dissected fossa for a given time (3-5mins) as an adjuvant therapy for a better outcome in post-tonsillectomy pain management and in wound healing property. **Methods:** This is a prospective randomized control pilot study in 44 patients of age group above 7 years old who underwent tonsillectomy by the same surgeon from January to December 2009. The patients was randomized into group A (n=22, control group) and group B (n=22, with BIPP application on the dissected tonsillar fossa) from the operation list by a doctor who is not involved in the study. Pearson Chi-Square test was used to analyzed visual analogue score (VAS) which is the assessment of the severity of the pain post operatively and the wound epithelization percentage between Group A and B at day 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, and 14. **Results:** There was a statistically significant pain-relieving effect subjectively and objectively in group B for the first 5 days of postoperative period ($p < 0.05$) with the mean and SD of VAS was 1.4 and 1.732 respectively. The mean and SD for the percentage of epithelization was 1.6 and 2.0 respectively. We did not encounter any postoperative complications in this study. An earlier healing of the dissected tonsillar fossa was significantly observed in group B compared to group A from post-operative Day 3 onwards which then become constant on day 14. **Conclusion:** The topical applications of BIPP showed a better pain-relieving effect which was safe and readily performed and with no special training required applying it.

Olfactory & taste dysfunction in COVID-19 patients: Pathogenesis and associated factors

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Olfactory and taste dysfunction (OTD) have been widely reported as a key symptoms in Covid-19 patients. It also can be manifested as an isolated symptom that caused delay in diagnosis of SARS-CoV2 infection. Identifying the mechanism of OTD and its associated factors may help to understand its association with Covid-19 manifestation. **Methods:** Literature search was conducted via database PubMed, Scopus, Embase and Science Direct using keyword (anosmia OR olfactory dysfunction) AND (ageusia OR taste dysfunction) AND (pathogenesis) AND (associated factor) AND (Covid-19 or SARS CoV-2). About 93 abstracts related to the keywords were retrieved. Only 54 articles which fulfilled the criteria such as published in English, available full text and peer-review or data based research have been selected. **Results:** Prevalence of OTD in Covid-19 patients varies markedly between studies from 5.1% to 98.0%. Duration of anosmia ranging from 4 to 28 days and appeared as early as day 1 post infection. Some authors postulated that OTD occurs due to angiotensin converting enzyme 2 (ACE2) assisted the coronavirus to stimulate neuronal damage. Besides, viruses also can directly damage the olfactory epithelium, nerve and central pathway. Most studies which looked at the association between OTD with olfactory damage using computed tomography scan and magnetic resonance imaging showed insignificant findings. There were studies that showed that OTD related with gender and age. High proportion of OTD in COVID-19 cases were female, young patients, non-smoker, patients without comorbid and in mild to moderate symptoms of COVID-19. There were limited and inconsistent results for the relationship between viral load and OTD. However, there was no relation between previous neurological disorder with OTD. **Conclusion:** The pathogenesis of OTD in Covid-19 and its association between viral load with its severity of OTD is still debatable and further study is warranted. The researchers need to look at all perspectives, allowing sufficient data to be explored to get more understanding about OTD in COVID-19.