E-Poster

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Effective Management of Parotid Sialocele and Fistula Using Botulinum Toxin A: A Case Series

Topic: Injections (Joint, Spine, etc.)

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BACKGROUND

After injuries or surgeries involving the parotid gland, complications such as parotid fistulas and sialoceles may occur. These conditions arise when saliva leaks into the surrounding tissues, resulting in continuous salivary drainage or fluid accumulation. Effective management of these issues is necessary to relieve discomfort and prevent further complications. Botulinum toxin A has emerged as a less invasive and effective treatment option for managing parotid sialocele and fistula.

CASE DESCRIPTION

We present a series of five patients who underwent superficial parotidectomy for various pathologies, with subsequent development of sialocele-associated fistulae that we successfully treated with botulinum toxin. The onset of fistula formation varied among patients from 1 to 13 days post-parotidectomy. The time from surgery to toxin injection also varied significantly, from 13 days to 56 days. Each patient was treated with a single Botulinum toxin A injection into the residual gland tissue at varying doses and time intervals post-surgery. The dosage per injection ranged between 30 and 50 units. The time from injection to fistula healing varied from 5 to 21 days.

DISCUSSION

Botulinum toxin functions by inhibiting the release of acetylcholine at the neuromuscular junction, which decreases the activity of the salivary glands. This reduction in gland activity helps heal fistulas by lowering saliva production, thereby preventing leakage, a key factor in their persistence. Two patients reported post-surgical hypoesthesia (peri-incisional and earlobe, respectively), which did not interfere with treatment outcomes. Additionally, one patient experienced a transient sensitivity alteration at the botulinum toxin injection site, lasting only two days, with no long-term adverse effects. Overall, there were no systemic side effects or worsening conditions, demonstrating the procedure's safety.

CONCLUSION

All patients achieved complete fistula resolution after a single botulinum toxin A injection, regardless of onset, dosage, or timing. Rapid healing and no severe adverse effects confirm its safety and efficacy. Future research could focus on optimal dosing and the benefits of earlier interventions for improved recovery outcomes.

Statement of Disclosures

None

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