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Management of carotid body tumors among Yemeni patients

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Introduction: Carotid Body Tumor (CBT) is the only pathologic lesion to involve the carotid body. Even so, carotid body tumors are rare, accounting for less than 0.5 percent of all tumors. In the past, this neoplasm has been named chemodectoma or glomus caroticum. The correct term for this tumor is a paraganglioma, since it develops from epithelioid cells derived from the neural crest that migrated in close association with autonomic ganglion cells. Unfortunately, the failure to make the diagnosis still occurs, and nearly 25 per cent of paragangliomas are first recognized by a surprised surgeon who attempts to perform biopsy on a very vascular neck mass, suspecting it as a lymph node. Once a paraganglioma is discovered, surgical excision is the treatment of choice unless a particular patient has a specific contraindication such as terminal illness, extreme age, or high anesthetic or operative risk. In our study, the total number of patients operated within the last 15 years in Sana'a with carotid body tumors are 216; female 201, male 15, while total number of operated CBTs are 231 which included 15 patients with bilateral CBTs. The age ranged between 21 and 88 years and most of them complained from neck mass, some of them associated with pain and/or cranial nerve neuropathy.

Purpose of Study: To evaluate the incidence and management of CBT among Yemeni patients.

Materials & Methods: Diagnosis was made by clinical evaluation, ultrasound, duplex scanning, C-T scanning, MRI, MRIA, C-T angio and/or angiography. The types of operations were inoculations of CBT for all patients, venous graft for ICA with carotid shunting and scarification of external carotid artery for some cases.

Results: Good prognosis of surgical intervention and we found CBTs are common tumor neck mass in Yemen.

Conclusions: Surgical excision for CBT is the treatment of choice and is safe with special care in methods of diagnosis and management.

Biography

Abdulkarem Al-Ameri is a Consultant of Endovascular & Vascular surgery. He has done his undergraduate in Aden University in 1986, the Hungarian Board in General Surgery specialty in 1995, the Hungarian Board in Vascular & Organ Transplantation subspecialty surgery in 1998. He is an Assistant Professor in Sana'a University / medical faculty and President of Yemen Vascular Society. He is a Board member of Gulf Vascular society, Asian Venous Forum and Asian Vascular Society. He is recognized as an International Honorary Member Professional Committee of Endovascology Chinese Medical Doctor Association.

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