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The role of CT of the temporal bone in the assessment of cholesteatomatous chronic otitis media: A 10-year retrospective study

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Objectives: Computed Tomography (CT) of the temporal bone has been considered the gold standard method for evaluation of chronic otitis media with cholesteatoma and planning its surgical approach. This study aims to compare radiological with peri-operative findings and, thus, evaluate the CT ability to determine the structural changes present in this pathology.

Study Design: Retrospective Study

Methods: All patients with CCOM undergoing surgery at the Hospital of Otorhinolaryngology Senhora da Oliveira-Guimaraes in the period between January 2010 and December 2015 were included in this study. Database was built after analysis of medical records, review of surgical reports and observation of CT scans of temporal bone performed pre-surgically. Statistical analysis of variables (state of the ossicular chain, tegmen, lateral semicircular canal, sigmoid sinus, scutum, facial nerve canal, and cholesteatoma extension) and correlation between radiological and surgical findings was performed using SPSS Statistics 23.0 software.

Results: 59 patients, including 21 women (35.5%) and 38 men (64.5%) have integrated this study, aged 16 to 68 years. The radio-surgical agreement was excellent for erosion of the hammer ($K=0.80$) and sigmoid sinus ($K=0.88$), good for erosion of the incus ($K=0.71$), stapes ($K=0.76$), lateral semicircular canal ($K=0.65$), tegmen ($k=0.71$) and fallopian canal ($K=0.69$) and moderate for erosion of the scutum ($K = 0.57$).

Conclusion: There is good to excellent radio-surgical agreement in assessing the extent of the disease and most of the studied structures. Thus, computed tomography scan of the temporal bone can be considered a good test in the diagnosis, staging and surgical planning of cholesteatomatous otitis media.

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Day-surgery and surgical waiting time

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Surgical waiting time remains an important issue regarding access to health care provision. It is considered to be excessive in most SOEDC countries (over 12 weeks or 90 days). The development of day surgery has been one of the strategies that proved effective in reducing surgical waiting time. This study aims to establish a correlation between surgical waiting time and the percentage of day-surgery cases, in hospitals with surgical services, in the Portuguese National Health Services. An observational study was conducted to establish the correlations existing between surgical waiting time and the percentage of day-surgery procedures realized, as well as associations with other variables, through multivariate and correlation analysis. Data was obtained at the Ministry of Health (ACSS). A negative, statistically significant Spearman's correlation was observed between the percentage of day-surgery cases and the waiting surgical time for elective procedures.

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