Benign para-pharyngeal tumors: Surgical intricacies by trans-cervical approach

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Introduction: Para-pharyngeal space (PPS) is one of potential confined fascial planes of head and neck that may be involved by various pathological processes. Being rare, they represent an ominous challenge in its clinical assessment and appropriate surgical intervention.

Material & Methods: A study of 14 Cases of para-pharyngeal space tumors (PPST) which presented to our tertiary care Institute from January 2013 to January 2015, were included in this study. All cases were studied by their clinical examination, fine needle aspiration cytology, radiology (computerized tomography and magnetic resonance imaging), extent of excision, postoperative complications and definitive biopsy. All patients underwent surgery by trans-cervical approach. All patients were followed up for a minimum period of 6 months.

Results: The most common tumor of the para-pharyngeal space was pleomorphic adenoma (n=8), followed by schwannomas (n=5), and carotid body tumor (paraganglioma). Twelve patients were operated via extra-capsular dissection (ECD), while two patients with intra-capsular dissection (ICD). Post-operative complications were vocal cord palsy in two cases, marginal mandibular weakness in one case, Horner syndrome in one case and hypoglossal palsy in one case.

Conclusion: The trans-cervical approach is a versatile approach for complete excision of tumors with excellent exposure and minimum morbidity. It can also be combined with excision of sub-mandibular gland in order to improve exposure. In cases of large schwannomas, ICD is recommended to favor a complete excision.

Biography
Simple Patadia completed her MBBS (2010) and MS ENT (2013) from the reputed BJ Medical College, Ahmedabad (registered under Dr. Rajesh Vishwakarma). She joined her senior residency in Neuro-otology in the department of Neuro-surgery at Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences in Jan 2014. She has special interest in Neuro-otology and Endoscopic Skull Base Surgery and has presented many papers in national conferences.

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