Patient Reported Outcome Measures in Endoscopic versus Open Ear Surgery

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Background

Endoscopic surgery is an effective approach to address middle ear pathology.

It is a minimal access surgery and potentially has lower morbidity post-operatively.

Aim

To assess post-operative patient reported outcome measures (PROM) in endoscopic middle ear surgery (EES) and open middle ear surgery (OES).

Methodology

Patients undergoing EES or OES were recruited prospectively over 24 months.

Patients filled in a questionnaire regarding their experience of several postoperative parameters: pain, nausea, vomiting, ear dressing, scar discomfort, daily activities, GP visits and overall surgical experience.

Results - 1

Demographics	EES	OES
Number of patients	43	32
Gender (F/M)	24/19	16/16
Age (mean)	38	37
Children (<16)	11	8

Type of surgery	EES	OES
Tympanoplasty	24	7
Mastoidectomy	10	15
Revision tympanoplasty	1	2
Revision mastoidectomy	3	6
Ossiculoplasty/Stapes/tympanotomy	5	2

Results - 2

Patients in the EES group reported significantly less scar discomfort. No significant differences were noted in the patient reported outcomes for pain

Results - 3

The OES group had significantly more postoperative visits to the GP surgery. No significant differences were noted in the PROMs for other parameters tested.

Conclusions

Patients undergoing EES have less scar related discomfort and require less postoperative GP visits

Ear pain scores reported by EES patients are comparable to the OES group. This is important in addressing the post surgery analgesia requirements in both patient groups

Both groups reported discomfort with ear dressings (ear pack)

No significant differences noted in the PROM for other parameters tested.