



Important factor for pain relief in patients with eagle syndrome: Excision technique of styloid process



Dear Sir,

I read the manuscript entitled “Surgical management of patients with Eagle syndrome” by Hardin et al. [1]. The manuscript is about the pain recovery after surgery for Eagle syndrome. This study is so important that compares the results of two surgical approaches. Transoral and transcervical approaches have advantages and disadvantages as the authors mentioned. I want to emphasize one point about pain recovery after surgery. Besides the preference of surgical approach for pain relief, the technique of the surgery is also important. Excision of the styloid process without disrupting the attachment of the muscles and ligaments to the periosteum of the styloid process is an important factor in relieving the complaints. The technique depends on surgeon's experience and preference. Some use curved osteotome or elevator [2,3]. I prefer blunt-edged round ethmoidectomy curette [4]. The tip of styloid process is sharply incised with scalpel, periosteum over the styloid process is stripped off proximally with ethmoidectomy curette like a sock (degloving). During this degloving, the muscles and ligaments are in continuity with the periosteum and their attachments to the periosteum are not disrupted. This maneuver is also important for pain relief of patients with Eagle syndrome.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest whatsoever arising out of the publication of this manuscript.

References

- [1] Hardin FM, Xiao R, Burkey BB. Surgical management of patients with Eagle syndrome. *Am J Otolaryngol* 2018;39(5):481–4.
- [2] de Souza Carvalho AC, Magro Filho O, Garcia Jr. IR, de Holanda ME, de Menezes Jr. JM. Intraoral approach for surgical treatment of Eagle syndrome. *Br J Oral Maxillofac Surg* 2009;47(2):153–4.
- [3] Müderris T, Bercin S, Sevil E, Beton S, Kırs M. Surgical management of elongated styloid process: intraoral or transcervical? *Eur Arch Otorhinolaryngol* 2014;271(6):1709–13.
- [4] Yavuz H, Caylakli F, Erkan AN, Ozluoglu LN. Modified intraoral approach for removal of an elongated styloid process. *J Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg* 2011;40(1):86–90.

Fatma Caylakli*

Baskent University School of Medicine, Otorhinolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery Department, Ankara, Turkey
E-mail address: fcaylakli@yahoo.com.

* Baskent University School of Medicine, Adana Research and Medical Center, Gazipasa Mh. Baraj Cd. No.7, Seyhan, Adana, Turkey.