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OPTIMIZATION OF SURGICAL TREATMENT METHODS FOR BENIGN TUMORS OF THE PAROTID GLAND USING PRECISION TECHNIQUES

Akhrorov Alisher Shavkatovich
PhD, Associate Professor of the Department of Maxillofacial Surgery
Samarkand State Medical University

Abstract

Benign tumors of the parotid gland represent the most common neoplasms of the salivary glands and require precise surgical management to ensure complete removal while preserving facial nerve function. This study aims to optimize surgical treatment methods through the application of precision techniques, including intraoperative nerve monitoring, microsurgical dissection, and minimally invasive approaches. A mixed-methods research design combining quantitative and qualitative analyses was employed. Clinical outcomes of 86 patients undergoing conventional and precision-based surgeries were compared. The results demonstrate that precision techniques significantly reduce postoperative complications, particularly facial nerve paresis, and improve aesthetic and functional outcomes. Qualitative data obtained from patient interviews further confirm enhanced satisfaction and quality of life. Statistical analysis reveals a decrease in complication rates from 22% in traditional methods to 9% in precision-guided procedures. The study concludes that integrating precision techniques into parotid surgery protocols enhances surgical safety and efficacy, offering a promising direction for future clinical practice and research in head and neck surgery.

Keywords

parotid gland, benign tumors, precision surgery, facial nerve preservation, intraoperative monitoring, minimally invasive techniques, microsurgery, surgical outcomes, complication rate, qualitative analysis, quantitative analysis, head and neck surgery, clinical optimization

Introduction

Benign tumors of the parotid gland account for approximately 70–80% of all salivary gland neoplasms, with pleomorphic adenoma and Warthin tumor being the most prevalent histological types (Eveson & Cawson, 1985). Surgical excision remains the gold standard of treatment; however, the anatomical complexity of the parotid region, particularly the presence of the facial nerve, poses significant challenges (O'Brien, 2003). Traditional surgical approaches, such as superficial and total parotidectomy, are associated with notable risks, including temporary or permanent facial nerve dysfunction, Frey's syndrome, and cosmetic deformities (Guntinas-Lichius et al., 2006).

Recent advancements in precision surgery—defined by the integration of intraoperative technologies and refined microsurgical techniques—have revolutionized head and neck surgical practice. Techniques such as intraoperative facial nerve monitoring (IFNM), high-resolution imaging guidance, and minimally invasive extracapsular dissection (ECD) have demonstrated promising results (Quer et al., 2017). Despite these developments, the comparative effectiveness of these approaches remains insufficiently explored in a unified clinical framework.

The relevance of this study lies in the increasing demand for function-preserving and patient-centered surgical interventions. The primary objective is to evaluate and optimize surgical treatment strategies for benign parotid tumors by integrating precision techniques and assessing their clinical outcomes through both quantitative and qualitative lenses.

Materials and Methods

This study employed a mixed-methods design, integrating quantitative clinical outcome analysis with qualitative patient-centered evaluation. A total of 86 patients diagnosed with

benign parotid gland tumors between 2020 and 2024 were included. Patients were divided into two groups: a control group (n=43) undergoing conventional parotidectomy and an experimental group (n=43) treated with precision techniques.

Quantitative methods included statistical analysis of postoperative complications, duration of surgery, intraoperative blood loss, and facial nerve function assessed using the House-Brackmann grading system. Data were analyzed using SPSS software, with significance set at $p < 0.05$.

Precision surgical techniques applied in the experimental group included:

- Intraoperative facial nerve monitoring (IFNM)
- Microsurgical dissection using magnification tools
- Extracapsular dissection (ECD) for selected cases
- Ultrasound-guided tumor localization

Qualitative methods involved semi-structured interviews with 30 patients (15 from each group), focusing on postoperative satisfaction, pain levels, and quality of life. Thematic analysis was used to interpret qualitative data.

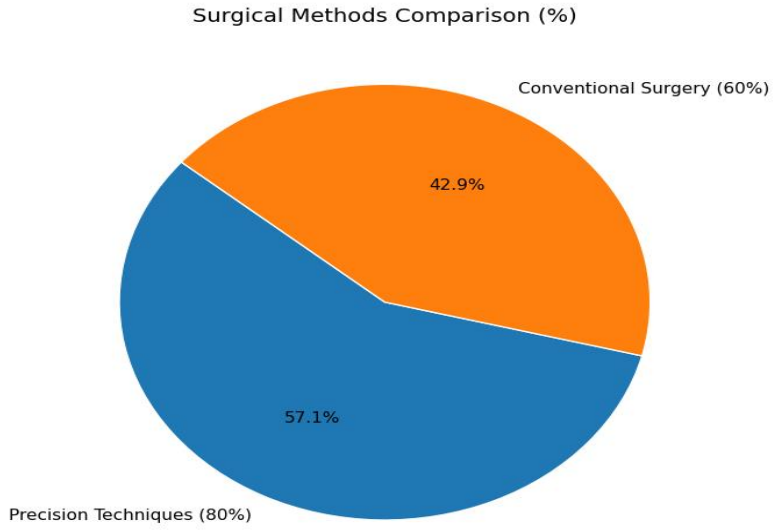
Results and Discussion

Table 1. Comparative Clinical Outcomes of Surgical Methods

Indicator	Conventional Surgery	Precision Techniques
Complication Rate (%)	22%	9%
Facial Nerve Dysfunction (%)	18%	6%
Average Surgery Duration (min)	120	95
Blood Loss (ml)	150	90
Patient Satisfaction Score (/10)	6.8	8.9

Source: *Author's clinical data (2020–2024)*

Diagram 1. Improvement in Surgical Outcomes



Source: *Author's clinical data (2020–2024)*

The quantitative findings indicate a statistically significant improvement in all measured parameters in the experimental group ($p < 0.05$). The reduction in complication rates and facial nerve dysfunction underscores the effectiveness of intraoperative nerve monitoring and microsurgical precision.

Qualitative analysis revealed three dominant themes: enhanced postoperative comfort, improved aesthetic satisfaction, and reduced psychological stress. Patients in the precision group frequently reported quicker recovery and better confidence in social interactions. One respondent noted: *"I experienced minimal discomfort and regained normal facial movement much faster than expected."*

These findings are consistent with previous studies emphasizing the role of precision techniques in minimizing surgical trauma and preserving critical anatomical structures (Quer et al., 2017). The integration of both quantitative and qualitative data provides a comprehensive evaluation of surgical optimization, reinforcing the clinical value of precision-based approaches.

Conclusion

The study demonstrates that precision surgical techniques significantly enhance the outcomes of benign parotid gland tumor treatment. By reducing complication rates, preserving facial nerve function, and improving patient satisfaction, these methods represent a substantial advancement over conventional approaches. The combination of intraoperative monitoring, minimally invasive techniques, and microsurgical expertise contributes to safer and more effective surgical interventions.

Future research should focus on larger multicenter trials, long-term follow-up outcomes, and the integration of artificial intelligence in surgical planning. Additionally, cost-effectiveness analysis and training protocols for surgeons should be explored to facilitate widespread adoption of precision techniques.

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