TRAGO-ANGLE INCISION – A BLEND OF COSMESIS AND ACCESSIBILITY.

Keerthi R¹, Abhishek Dutta ², Abhishek Khatua ³, Vikram Kani ⁴

¹ Professor, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Vokkaligara Sangha Dental College and Hospital, Bengaluru
², ³, ⁴ Post-graduate, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Vokkaligara Sangha Dental College and Hospital, Bengaluru

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ABSTRACT

Incision for any surgery should maintain an equilibrium between accessibility and aesthetics. Traditional incisions for superficial parotidectomy often lead to scarring, excessive intraoperative bleeding, and possible facial/greater auricular nerve damage. Hereby proposing a modified incision for superficial parotid tumours which has greater aesthetic outcome with adequate exposure.

Introduction

An incision is the mainstay of any surgical procedure. Time spent on placing a proper incision is never wasted. A multitude of incisions are described in literature like Lazy ‘S’ incision, facelift incision, periauricular incision, preauricular incision. None of them maintains the equilibrium between accessibility and good aesthetic outcome and has their own disadvantages.

The most commonly used incision for superficial parotidectomy is the Lazy ‘S’ incision described by Blair in the year 1918¹. It consists of a preauricular incision with a submandibular extension in a slight ‘S’ shape curve. The incision can provide adequate exposure of the entire parotid gland; the major disadvantage is that of post operative scar².

Appiani in 1967³ described about the Facelift incision in which the preauricular incision was extended retroauricularly in the occipital direction. It provided superior aesthetic outcome as compared to the Blair’s incision, but offered limited surgical exposure, and hence was reserved for smaller sized tumours².

In the periauricular approach, a preauricular incision is extended, encircling the ear lobe, till the mastoid process. The incision provided adequate exposure and good aesthetic result, but few temporary complications, like, damage to Greater auricular nerve and Facial nerve, inflammation of the temporomandibular joint, transient Frey’s syndrome were reported⁴.

TECHNIQUE

We are reporting a modified preauricular approach for superficial parotidectomy. The incision starts immediately inferior to the tragus. It continues inferiorly, almost parallel to the posterior border of ramus of the mandible, extending about 0.5 cm inferior

* Corresponding author: Dr. Abhishek Khatua - m.d.s., post-graduate, department of oral and maxillofacial surgery, vokkaligara sangha dental college and hospital, Bengaluru email: abhishekkhatua@gmail.com
to the angle of mandible (Fig. 1, Fig. 2). Skin and subcutaneous tissue is dissected using blade and cautery
till the parotido massetric fascia. The dissection now
proceeds anterosuperiorly and anteroinferiorly till the
well encapsulated tumor mass is identified (Fig. 3).
Subsequently the tumor mass is dissected free of
superficial lobe of parotid gland and delivered without
any inadvertent damage to the facial nerve.
Since the incision is given on skin creases along the
langers lines, very minimal post-operative scar is
visible (Fig. 4). Intra-operatively it provides excellent
exposure, with minimal haemorrhage and no facial or
greater auricular nerve damage.
CONCLUSION
The modified approach provides adequate exposure for
manipulation of the lesion, without compromising on
cosmesis. It also overcomes the disadvantages of the
other incisions like excessive bleeding, facial/ greater
auricular nerve damage or excessive scarring. Thus for
surgical removal of any superficial lesion in the
parotid gland, this can be the standard incision in
practise.

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