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Partial Resection of the Sternocleidomastoid Muscle for the Congenital Muscular Torticollis

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– Abstract –

Study Design : This is a retrospective study determining the surgical result of the partial resection of the sternocleidomastoid (SCM) muscle for the congenital muscular torticollis.

Objectives : To evaluate the efficacy of the partial resection of the sternocleidomastoid muscle for the correction of the congenital muscular torticollis.

Materials and Methods : We reviewed 19 patients who were treated by the partial resection of the sternocleidomastoid muscle from 1990 to 1997. The mean age at the time of the operation was 8 year 3 months. Each patient was examined the range of the motion of the neck for the functional results by the modified Ling's criteria, and the tilt of the head, facial asymmetry, presence of the lateral band, loss of the sternomastoid column and quality of the scar for the cosmetic results by the modified Ling's criteria. The over-all cosmetic and functional results were analyzed by the criteria similar to those described by Canale et al.

Results : Functionally, 5 patients (26.3%) were excellent, 10 (52.6%) good, 2 (10.5%) fair, and 2 (10.5%) poor. Cosmetically, 7 patients (30.8%) were excellent, 9 (47.4%) good, 1 (5.3%) fair, and 2 (10.5%) poor. The complication was one lymphatic leakage. Seven of 8 patients were good and one patient was fair under the age of 5. Six of 7 patients were good and one patient was poor between the age of 6 and 10. Two of 4 patients were good and two patients were poor over the age of 11.

Conclusion : The partial resection of sternocleidomastoid muscle for the congenital muscular torticollis would be recommendable, because it is a simple, safe procedure and usually produces satisfactory results. All partial resection of the sternal and clavicular head of the sternocleidomastoid muscle may prevent the unsatisfactory cosmetic result which is lateral band due to the clavicular head of the sternocleidomastoid muscle.

The good results were achieved in case of under the age 10 years.

Key words : Sternocleidomastoid muscle, Torticollis, Partial resection

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5.6 (, 3 2 ~7 4) .

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1.3%

3)

2 cm

4 cm 가 가

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, Canale 2)

(overall result)

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Ling (modified Ling's criteria; functional evaluation)⁸⁾

(lateral bending)

(rotation) 가

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(Table 2).

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Table 1. Criteria of functional evaluation; Modified Ling's criteria

result	LOM* of lateral bending (degree)	LOM* of rotation (degree)	End result
Excellent	0	0	satisfactory
Good	1~10	1~10	
Fair	11~20	11~20	unsatisfactory
Poor	>20	> 20	

* LOM: Limitation of motion=ROM of normal side-ROM of affected side

V 14
 (73.7%) 1 (5.3%)
 가 7 (36.8%), 9 (47.4%), 1
 (5.3%), 2 (10.5%) 16 (84.2%) , 3
 (15.8%) (Table 4).

1. 가 :
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 22
 36 , 40 15 (78.9%), 1 (5.3%), 3 (15.8%)
 67 가 5 (26.3%), .5 8 7
 10 (52.6%), 2 (10.5%), 2 (10.5%) , 1 , 6 10
 15 (78.9%) (Table 3). 7 6 , 1 , 11
 4 2 , 2
 (Table 5).

2. 가 :
 가
 4 (21.02%)
 16 (84.2%)
 14 (73.7%)
 ,
 3
 (15.8%) , 3 (clavicular head)

Table 2. Criteria of cosmetic evaluation ; Modified Ling's criteria

Result	Head tilt	Loss of SCM column	Facial asymmetry	Lateral band	Hypertrophic Scar	End result
Excellent		noon			fine	satisfactory
Good		If present, not easily detectable			mild	
Fair		obvious but cosmetically acceptable			moderate	unsatisfactory
Poor		cosmetically unacceptable			severe	

Table 3. Functional results according to modified Ling's criteria

Result	Limitation of lateral bending	Limitation of rotation	Final-result	End result
Excellent	6 (31.6%)	8 (42.1%)	5 (26.3%)	satisfactory 15 (78.9%)
Good	9 (47.4%)	7 (36.8%)	10 (52.6%)	
Fair	2 (10.5%)	3 (15.8%)	2 (10.5%)	unsatisfactory 4 (21.1%)
Poor	2 (10.5%)	1 (5.3%)	2 (10.5%)	

Table 4. Cosmetic results according to modified Ling's criteria

Result	No of patients	End result
Excellent	7 (36.8%)	satisfactory 16 (84.2%)
Good	9 (47.4%)	
Fair	1 (5.3%)	unsatisfactory 3 (15.8%)
Poor	2 (10.5%)	

Table 5. Overall results according to age

Result	Age		
	under 5 yrs	6-10 yrs	over 11yrs
Good	7	6	2
Fair	1		
Poor		1	2

2,3).
 가 Ling 5 8).
 .Ling 3 19 12 (63.2%)
 60 1 41
 가 , 39 (95.1%) (Fig. 1).
 8). 19
 16 (84.2%) . 4 (21.1%),
 3 (15.8%) , 1,5,7,12).

(Fig. 2).
 Ling 60
 1-4 66.7% , 1
 , 4 33.3% ,
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 8). Tse 가 5
 (tenotomy) ,

11) Akazawa 90% 가 가
 19 가 1).
 가 3 가 ,
 가 가
 78.9%, 84.2%
 5 8 7
 6 10 7 6
 2 11 4
 가 가
 5 6 10 10
 가 11 .

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Fig. 1. Preoperative photograph of a 8-year-old girl with the congenital muscular torticollis on the right side showed moderate degree of facial asymmetry and head tilt **A**. Three years after the partial resection of the sternocleidomastoid muscle, the facial asymmetry and head tilt were disappeared **B**. The over-all result was good.



Fig. 2. Postoperative photograph of a 17-year-old girl treated with the partial resection of the sternocleidomastoid muscle 7 years ago showed the prominent lateral band (clavicular head).

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