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CLINICAL VIDEO

Functional fat injection in the treatment of dysphagia following surgery

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Abstract

Functional fat injection under local anesthesia could be useful in the treatment of chronic dysphagia in selected patients with tissue loss secondary to laryngeal surgery.

KEYWORDS

dysphagia, fat injection, head and neck cancer

The application of functional fat injection (FFI) in the treatment of dysphagia following laryngeal surgery is presented. FFI was performed under local anesthesia using a

transcervical approach in order to correct the tissue loss causing dysphagia. The control of injection depth and site was performed through a transnasal flexible endoscope.

Dysphagia is a common complication after partial laryngectomies (PL).¹ Behavioral swallowing rehabilitation allows adequate management in most of the cases; however, long-term feeding tube dependency is unavoidable in some patients. In order to overcome this problem, our group recently proposed a new treatment for dysphagia following PL, the functional fat injection (FFI) performed under local anesthesia.² The underlying hypothesis is that tissue loss related to surgery might reduce airway protection acting as a funnel toward the larynx (Figure 1). The correction of tissue loss using fat might improve the safety of swallowing. A case of FFI is presented.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nothing to declare.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

FM: made substantial contribution to conception and design of the study; drafting the manuscript, involved in final

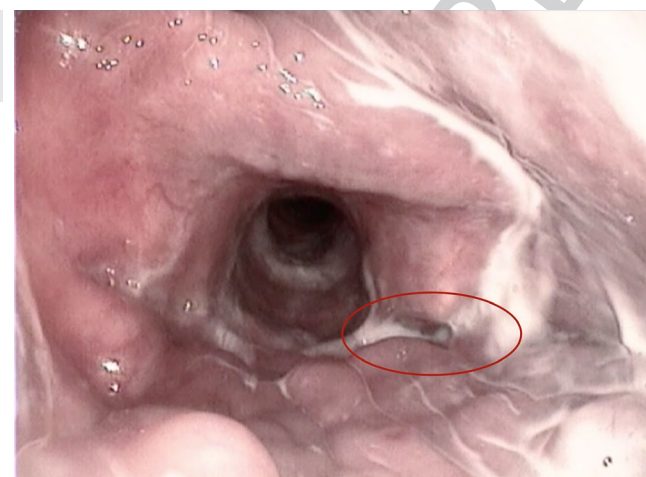



FIGURE 1 After a partial laryngectomy an important tissue loss at the level of the tongue base and of the left aryepiglottic fold, acting like a slope for the ingested food was found

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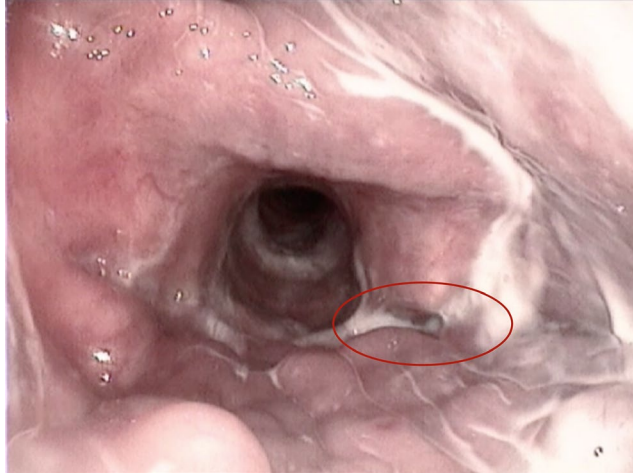
SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Additional supporting information may be found online in the Supporting Information section.

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