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Preoperative Embolization of Thyroid Arteries in a Patient with Large Non-Hodgkin Thyroid Lymphoma

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Introduction: Primary thyroid lymphoma is a rare disease. It can be defined as a lymphoma that arise from the thyroid gland and usually is of the non-Hodgkin type that can be further divided into indolent cell and aggressive types. Treatment of thyroid non-Hodgkin lymphoma (TNHL) is based on a combined-modality of chemotherapy and radiotherapy. Surgery is utilized in cases of operable disease so the minimal disease is present before the combined-modality therapy.

Methods: We herein report a case of a 61 years old man affected by an aggressive type of TNHL presenting with a large goiter with extension to the mediastinum and compression of the trachea causing severe dyspnea, dysphagia and stridor. Because of the extent of the goiter and furthermore the potential of significant blood loss in an attempt to reduce the goiter size and minimize surgical risks, preoperative embolization was performed six days before surgery under conventional angiography.

Results: This procedure allowed a significant reduction in blood perfusion to the gland which resulted in a decrease on the size of the goiter facilitating surgical removal of the gland.

Conclusion: We consider preoperative embolization of thyroid arteries a successful and feasible procedure and could be considered as a primary step before surgical and chemo-radiotherapy treatment in the case of aggressive TNHL.