ESTABLISHING CONSENSUS CRITERIA FOR POST-TONSILLECTOMY HEMORRHAGE CLASSIFICATION: IS IT NECESSARY?

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Background and aim of the study. The occurrence rate of post-tonsillectomy hemorrhage (PTH) varies between 1.5% to 20% according to studies and inclusion criteria. However, there is no agreement on the criteria to classify a case as PTH. To compare frequency of this dangerous complication we need to analyze its range, severity, and management. These data could help to establish criteria of PTH. Therefore, we decided to conduct this study.

Methods and materials. In this retrospective cohort study, a total of 2683 patients who underwent tonsillectomy alone or with adenoidectomy (T&A) at ENT department of LUHS in 2017-2021 were included. From this cohort, 236 patients were hospitalized because of PTH. Information from medical documentation of these patients was retrospectively collected and analyzed. Statistical data analysis was performed using the SPSS 19.0 package.

Results. PTH frequency was 9.5%. After exclusion of patients with spontaneous cessation of bleeding during hospitalization (patients who did not require the use of hemostatic agents in the doctor's office or operating room) and cases with no recurrence of PTH during hospitalization, the frequency of PTH was determined to be 5.6%.

Conclusions. The incidence of PTH is based on diagnostics criteria. There is a need to establish a consensus on the precise definition and diagnostic criteria to assign a case as PTH, because otherwise there is a possibility of misinterpretation of the clinical data.

Keywords. Tonsillectomy; hemorrhage, incidence.