Evaluation of Trident Landmark Method for Facial Nerve Trunk Identification during Superficial Parotidectomy

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Abstract:

Objective: To evaluate the accuracy and safety of the trident landmark as a proposed anatomical landmark for identification of the facial nerve trunk during superficial parotidectomy. **Study design;** prospective study. **Methods:** The study was conducted between January 2018 and January 2020 at Kafr El-Sheikh university hospital (KUH), and Al Fayoum University Hospital (FUH), Egypt on 60 patients with benign tumors of the superficial lobe of the parotid gland. All patients were subjected to superficial parotidectomy. Outcome was evaluated regarding clinical success of facial nerve identification by trident landmark and early post-operative complications. **Results:** The mean age was 43.74±14.65, the male represent 53.3% of the patients and females was 46.7%. The left and right sides were affected in 58.3% and 51.7% respectively. The mean tumor size of was 3.0±1.21. The facial nerve trunk was successfully identified in all the patients (100%) with no intra-operative complications. **Conclusion:** The proposed landmark described here facilitates the identification of facial nerve trunk during superficial parotidectomy with relative ease, safety and accuracy.