



## **The submucous vasotomy in the treatment of hypertrophic rhinitis**

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### **Abstract**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The chronic hypertrophic rhinitis represents a common pathology in a tropical environment favored by exogenous and endogenous factors (climate, dust, gas pollutants ...). The nasal mucosa is usually traumatized by most conventional surgical treatment leading to changes in nasal mucosal (atrophia, crusting...).

#### **Objective**

The aim of this work was to confirm the place of a new surgical method in the treatment of hypertrophic rhinitis in a tropical environment.

#### **PATIENTS AND MÉTHODS**

It's a study in the ENT department of the health centre of reference (from district IV Bamako) having involved 65 patients (35 male and 30 female with an average age of 28 years) with hypertrophic rhinitis not cured by medical treatment between February 2011 and January 2012.

This new method, the submucosal vasotomy was carried out after an application with 2% lidocain (local anesthesia) by a detachment under mucosa followed from a lightweight curettage of the bone part of the hypertrophied turbinate.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The method allowed making more permeable the nasal cavity in 80% of cases. This technique helped no formation of crusts and adhesions in the nasal cavity. Regular monitoring of patients allowed to confirm the place of this technique in the management of patients with hypertrophic obstructive rhinitis.

## **CONCLUSION**

The submucous vasotomy represents for us a useful method for addressing the problems related to support for the chronic hypertrophic rhinitis not cured by medical treatment in a tropical environment.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The chronic hypertrophic rhinitis represents a common pathology in tropical environment (1, 2, 3, 4). Exogenous and endogenous factors (climate, dust, gas pollutants, disorders neuro-circulatory...) favors this type of rhinitis (5, 1, 2, 3, 4, 6). Many of classical surgical treatment proposed in rhinology cause often problems in the nasal mucosa in our tropical environment (dry and hot) (3,4, 6, 7, 8).

## **OBJECTIVE**

The aim of our study was to confirm the place of a new surgical method for the treatment of chronic rhinitis hypertrophic in a tropical environment.

## **PATIENTS AND METHODS**

### **Patients**

It's a study conducted between February 2011 and January 2012 in the department of Otorhinolaryngology Health reference center of district IV Bamako and having involved 65 patients (35, male and 30 female with an average age of 28 years) with chronic hypertrophic rhinitis non-cured by medical treatment. Nasal obstruction was present in all our patients associated with other signs

(serous rhinorhea, sero-mucous rhinorrhea, headache, hyposmia, dry throat, rhinolalia closed, fatigability...).

All patients presented hypertrophy of the inferior turbinate in the clinical examination.

Were excluded from the study patients who had a deviated nasal septum associated with hypertrophy of the turbinate

## **Methods**

The patients underwent rhinological routine examinations (anterior rhinoscopy, nasofibroscope, Rx of the sinuses, Tomodensitometry of sinuses...) and a classic preoperative check-up for local anesthesia.

-Material consisted of: standard instruments (straight spatula with a ridged tooth, scalpel blade, nasal speculum, front light), lidocain 0.5% or 1%, 5%, band, compress, antibiotic ointment, syringe for infiltration anesthesia....

-Premedication was carried out three days before the intervention (with a hemostatic per os) and the day of the surgery (hemostatic, antalgic).

-The first time of the intervention consisted of a retraction of the mucosa of hypertrophied turbinates by application of swab of the lidocain with naphazolin 5% for 10 minutes, then an infiltration anesthesia along the turbinate with lidocain 0.5 or 1% (2-3 ml) was performed according to the tolerance of products and in the absence of general contraindications for the surgical act.

(-The second time was to make a vertical section of the turbinate (0, 3-0, 5 cm) into its bony part in depth)(fig.1).

-Then it introduced the spatula in the turbinate by performing a movement of curettage of the submucous part of the incised turbinate from front to back and top to bottom (fig.1).

-Nasal anterior packing was placed at the end of the intervention.

-In postoperative washing nasal saline or sea salt drops-associated antibiotic nasal and corticosteroids have been established for 3-4 weeks to heal.

## **MECHANISM OF ACTION OF THE TECHNIQUE**

This intervention is based on the disturbance caused to local microcirculation of the bony part of the turbinate in particular arteriovenous anastomoses promoting a reduction in the size of the turbinate by caused atrophy of the submucous part of the turbinate which provide for the recovery of a good nasal

breathing (fig. 2). The lining of the nasal mucosa is well respected which avoids the risk of adhesions and crusted rhinitis usually occurring during conventional surgical gestures indicated for this type of rhinitis.

#### **EVALUATION OF THE TECHNIQUE**

-Evaluation of the effectiveness of the treatment was made in three months and 24 months on the symptom of nasal obstruction:

-A three months - the improvement was clear for all patients

-A 24 months the result was satisfactory in 58 patients (89.23%), moderately satisfying in 6 patients (9.23%) and unsatisfactory only in one patient (1.53%).

-None of our patients had used vasoconstrictors after the operation.

-We only noted no immediate and late complications related to surgery.

-Intervention lasted on average 20 minutes

#### **COMMENTARY**

Hypertrophic rhinitis is a more common pathology in a tropical environment, several factors are cited: allergy, dry and hot climate, humidity and pollution... (1, 2, 3, 4, 5). Nowadays treatment is often difficult and some patients are not relieved by many classically known surgical techniques: Chemical Cauterization, galvano-cautery, cryotherapy(9, 4, 6, 8), total or partial turbinectomy, ultrasound surgery, nitrogen liquid (10, 11, 6, 8), vacuum cavernosotomy, power microdebrider, lasers, bipolar radiofrequency,...)(12, 13, 14, 6, 8).

His interventions do not seem to respect good mucociliary function as can traumatize the nasal mucosa by promoting the formation of crusts, adhesions and other rhinological diseases (subatrophic rhinitis, atrophic rhinitis ...) in most cases(15, 16, 17, 18, 4.8).

Also it seemed appropriate to assert the vasotomy submucosal technique in our climatic conditions by doing this work. It must be recognized that this technique was first carried out by Prof. Piskounov (1) under other climatic conditions.

Our results confirm the place of this technique in the surgical management of hypertrophic rhinitis patients in a tropical environment.

The method is less expensive for our poor population, respects the mucosal function of the nasal cavity with a short time for intervention.

## CONCLUSION

The submucous vasotomy is an effective technique in the management of nasal obstruction of the hypertrophic obstructive chronic rhinitis in a tropical environment.

Our study confirms his respect for the (less traumatic to the nasal mucosa) mucociliary function, evidenced by the absence in our patients of crusty atrophic rhinitis, adhesions or other pathologies related to surgical intervention.

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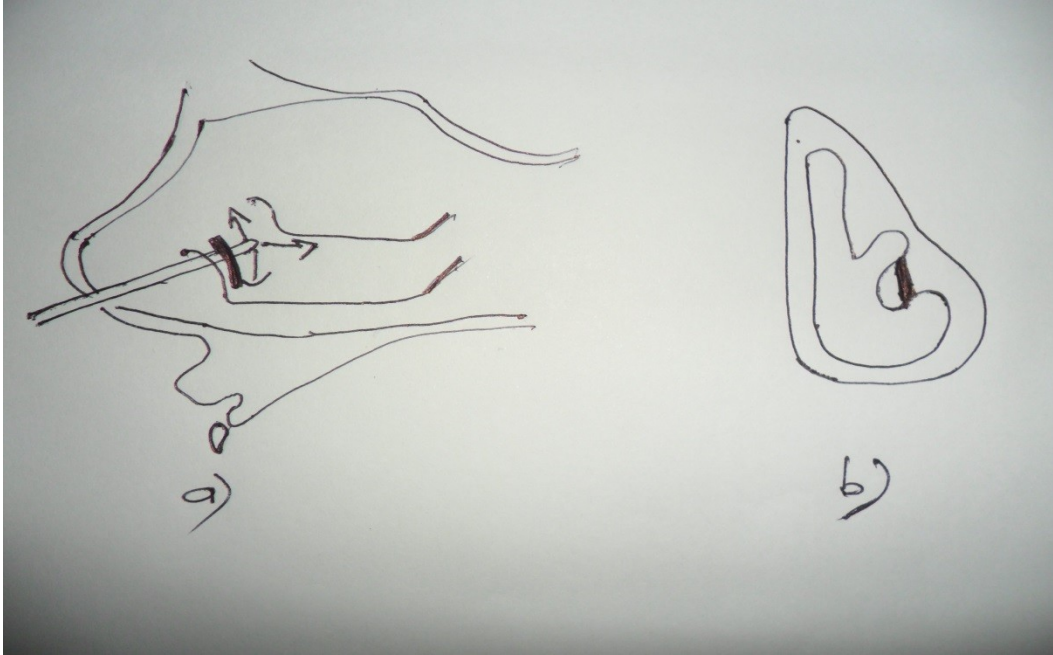
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**Figure N ° 1 Incision of the turbinate and movements of the spatula in the submucous tissue**

**a)line of incision of the turbinate**

**b)directions of the spatula in the submucous tissue**



**Figure N°2**

**Benefit of the submucosal vasotomy on the mucosa of the turbinate (a- hypertrophied turbinate before operation, b - beneficial narrowing of the operated turbinate made for an increase in the space between the nasal septum and the operated turbinate)**

