Treatment of benign tracheobronchial cancers with endoscopy.

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Abstract

Despite the fact that benign tracheobronchial tumours are very uncommon, they can nonetheless restrict the airways, cause suffocation, and necessitate emergency surgery to remove the attempting to block lesions and clear the respiratory tracts. Although surgery is the treatment of choice, tumours can still be challenging to treat in some situations, and surgical complications are frequent. Therefore, bronchoscopy therapies, including Nd: YAG laser, electrocautery, APC, and cryotherapy, are crucial for treating benign tracheobronchial tumours and can effectively treat the majority of them. It has been proven that therapeutic endoscopy is effective for treating patients with benign airway blockage. The effectiveness of bronchoscopy managements for the therapy, however, heavily depends on the attentive identification of different aspects, including the location, size, and shape of the tumour as well as the age, status, and cardiopulmonary function of the patients, and thorough comprehension of the limitations and possibilities of each particular technique.

Keywords: Argon plasma coagulation, Electrocautery, Benign tracheobronchial tumours, Nd: YAG laser, Cryotherapy

Introduction

Primary tracheobronchial tumours are extremely uncommon tumours that begin in the trachea or bronchi. Case reports, observations from very small series, or retrospective research make up the majority of published data. Between 1973 and 2004, there were 574 occurrences of primary tracheobronchial tumours, with an incidence of roughly 2.6 cases per 100,000 people, according to the SEER database of the National Cancer Institute. Primary benign tracheobronchial tumours are less common, nevertheless. In the previous 40 years, Massachusetts General Hospital has diagnosed and treated 357 primary tracheobronchial tumour cases. Out of the 360 tumours stated, 326 were cancerous, 135 were squamous cell and 135 were adenoid cystic, 11 were carcinoid, 14 were sarcoma, and 34 were benign [1].

Whether benign or malignant, all tumours have the potential to impede the respiratory system and endanger the patients' lives. Therefore, the main goal of therapy is to quickly manage airway blockage and restore respiratory tract ventilation. Surgery, including sleeve resection, is the primary treatment for benign tracheobronchial malignancies. Surgery is challenging and causes significant stress to the patients for benign tumours that are located in the trachea, major bronchi, and eminence. In order to treat benign tracheobronchial tumours and to cure the majority of them, bronchoscopy managements including such neodymium-yttrium-aluminium-garnet laser (Ned: YAG) laser, electrocautery, argon plasma coagulation (APC), and cryotherapy are crucial. Since more than a century ago, rigid bronchoscopes have been in use [2].

The flexible bronchoscope has increasingly supplanted the rigid bronchoscope due to its need for general anaesthesia during practise and its poor optical scope in the tracheobronchial. Since the 1980s, when the interventional bronchoscope first became popular, more and more medical professionals have started using rigid bronchoscopes once more. Meanwhile, the rigid bronchoscope's blind zone has vanished thanks to advancements in electronic technology. The rigid bronchoscope features a lateral aperture that can be connected to a breathing apparatus and can keep the respiratory tract clear. Therefore, it is also known as a ventilating bronchoscope. The advantage of a rigid bronchoscope is that it enables flexible bronchoscopes or other instruments to pass directly through its lumen, enabling rigid bronchoscope to perform almost all procedures, such as cryotherapy, cryoablation, laser ablation, argon plasma coagulation, and foreign body removal.

The rigid bronchoscope has a number of benefits. The first rigid bronchoscope features a number of tubes that can be used by a suction catheter, lasing fibre, or electrode to simultaneously approach a target. In order to practise, we can perform suction and ablation simultaneously while keeping the visual field clear. We can quickly remove the secretion and blood because the suction catheter is larger. The second bronchoscope is rigid rather than flexible, and because of this, biopsy forceps can remove big pieces of tissue while the flexible bronchoscope can penetrate itself to reach the target. Modern optical techniques have eliminated the rigid bronchoscope's blind zone, however treating tumours in the bronchi that create acute angles or superior lobe bronchi

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with a rigid bronchoscope is still challenging. Additionally, stenosis can sometimes prevent stiff bronchoscopes from passing. In these circumstances, we must penetrate through the stenosis or use a flexible bronchoscope to approach the target in order to see the mucosa of the distal bronchi and the basilar portion of tumours in their entirety. In the current day, flexible bronchoscopes can be equipped with cryotherapy, Nd: YAG laser, and argon plasma coagulation devices. Therefore, we may treat endobronchial malignancies with a flexible bronchoscope in the vast majority of instances [3].

The different flexible bronchoscopes are

Cryotherapy

By injecting liquid CO2 to the tissue along the probe, cryotherapy can freeze the tumour and cause necrosis of the tumour. Since the depth of the perforation is just 3 mm and the probe is mucous, it cannot be inserted into the deep part of the tumour. Cryotherapy is therefore only appropriate for surface tumours, particularly for those with colloid tumours and sledged blood. Cryotherapy techniques include freezing, cutting, and freezing, thawing. Using cryotherapy to freeze the tumour to an icefall and then cutting it out using biopsy forceps is known as freezing cutting. We freeze the tumour and then wait for it to melt naturally so that it can fall out [4].

Combining electrocautery or a Nd: YAG laser with argon plasma coagulation

Together with argon plasma coagulation, a Nd: YAG laser or electrocautery can quickly remove tumours with a reduced risk of perforation and serious haemorrhage. For large tumours, electrocautery can be used to remove the tumour, followed by the Nd: YAG laser to gasify the remaining tumour and, ultimately, argon plasma coagulation to treat the basilar section of the tumour and prevent recurrence. Because of the shallow treatment depth, perforation and serious haemorrhage can be avoided [5].

Conclusion

The most common treatment for benign tracheobronchial tumours is surgery. The chance of recurrence or malignant transformation is, however, relatively low with many bronchoscopic procedures, particularly when various treatments, such as the Nd: YAG laser, electrocautery, cryotherapy, and argon plasma coagulation, are used to treat tumours. In this article, various bronchoscopic procedures were introduced, along with how they could be combined. We think that in order to reach the goal of a dramatic cure and minimise the danger of recurrence, we should assess each therapy, including surgery and bronchoscopic therapies, choose the ones that are best for our patients, and apply them synthetically.

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