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Bizact™ tonsillectomy: The new way to do tonsillectomies

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Introduction: BiZact™ is a new ligasure device to perform a tonsillectomy efficiently with less intra-operative bleeding. It utilises bipolar to seal blood vessels followed by division of tissue. This technique markedly reduces operation time compared to traditional cold steel tonsillectomy. The Paediatric Throat Disorders Outcome Test (T-14) is a validated outcome measure used to assess the quality of life in children undergoing surgery. However, the T14 has never been used to assess the outcomes of BiZact™ tonsillectomy.

Aims: To assess the efficacy of BiZact tonsillectomy using the T-14 questionnaire.

Methods: A prospective cohort study of patients who underwent BiZact™ tonsillectomy in South Australia between 2017 and 2018 was conducted. Estimated intra-operative bleeding and operative time was measured. The parents were invited to complete the T-14 questionnaire pre-operatively and 6 weeks post BiZact™ tonsillectomy. A paired t-test was used for statistical analysis.

Results: One experienced consultant otorhinolaryngologist and two otorhinolaryngology registrars performed BiZact™ tonsillectomy on 70 patients. The median reduction in T-14 scores between the pre-operative and 6-week post-operative group is 22 - indicating a significant improvement in the parental perception of the child's quality of life following BiZact™ tonsillectomy ($p < 0.0001$). Mean operative time was 4.8 minutes. Mean estimated intra-operative blood loss was 2.7ml. The rate of secondary haemorrhage was 4.3%.

Conclusions: This study demonstrates that there is significant improvement in T-14 scores following BiZact™ tonsillectomy. It appears to be an effective technique of performing the most common surgical procedure in otorhinolaryngology.

Biography

Lucy Huang is a surgical resident medical officer at Flinders Medical Centre (South Australia, Australia), with a particular interest in Otorhinolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery. She is in her third post-graduate year. She is currently in the process of applying for Masters of Surgery at Flinders University. She is also actively involved in clinical audits and multiple research projects with the Department of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery, under the supervision of A/Professor E.H Ooi.

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