Nasal Suction System for Endoscopic Sinus Surgery

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Endoscopic sinus surgery has developed significantly in the past decade. The indications and the frequency of the surgery have increased tremendously. Performing this surgery in an awake patient under local anesthesia has numerous additional inherent problems as opposed to surgery under general anesthesia.

Technique: Our ‘Continuous Suction Assembly’ is a simple yet effective answer to these problems. It helps in providing a clear field during surgery. It also prevents aspiration and fogging and aids in accurate analysis of intraoperative blood loss.

Conclusion: Continuous suction technique is a cost-effective, simple technique to prevent many problems inherent to endoscopic sinus surgery under both local and general anesthesia. With proper preoperative counseling, the patient discomfort and cooperation can be improved drastically.

Keywords: Aspiration, Endoscopic sinus surgery, Nasal packing.

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INTRODUCTION

Endoscopic sinus surgery has progressed immensely in the past decade. The indications and so the frequency of its use has increased tremendously. In routine practice of an endoscopic surgeon, it is not unusual to have cases where bleeding is encountered in spite of good decongestion and surgical techniques. In such conditions, patient is uncomfortable with awareness of surgery being done, limitations in doing an extensive procedure, need for controlled sedation all throughout the surgery by anesthetist and due to depressed reflexes there is a definite chance of aspiration of blood clots or nasal packs. With aspiration, there is a lot of morbidity starting with patient discomfort, increased reflux due to swallowing of blood and estimation

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Possibility of mortality is also a rare yet possible complication.

Our technique works very well if the patient is explained about the procedure and accepts the possible discomfort. In our experience, once the patient understands the inherent problems of the surgery and how this technique helps in decreasing those problems, there was no problem that we encountered. The associated minimal cost also helps, especially in developing countries like ours. The advantages in this technique are as follows:

1. Continuous atraumatic suction with a clear surgical field.
2. Avoids fogging on endoscope because of breathing during the surgery, by blocking both the posterior choanae with the inflated balloon of the catheter.
3. Avoidance of aspiration of blood or packs intraoperatively due to depressed reflexes.
4. Accurate estimation of blood loss as none is swallowed or coughed out.
5. Use of bipolar cautery is easier as there is continuous suctioning of the smoke, with a clear surgical field.
6. Especially, useful in endoscopic drilling procedures like endoscopic dacrocystorhinostomy, where continuous saline irrigation is required.

Clinically, we had significant decrease in patient discomfort with better surgical ease. This technique enables us to operate more difficult pathologies and for prolonged time with accurate evaluation of blood loss.
CONCLUSION

Continuous suction technique is a cost-effective, simple technique to prevent many problems inherent to endoscopic sinus surgery under local anesthesia. With good preoperative counseling, it helps immensely in improving surgical ease and decreasing patient discomfort.

REFERENCES