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Josie Kurian Paul
Senior Lecturer,
Department of Oral and
Maxillofacial Surgery, Royal
Dental College, Palakkad,
Kerala, India

Dr. Angel Mary Elias
Assistant Professor,
Department of Prosthodontics,
Royal Dental College, Palakkad,
Kerala, India

Assessment of the complications encountered during and after surgical removal of maxillary third molar: An observational study

Josie Kurian Paul and Dr. Angel Mary Elias

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Abstract

Aim: To evaluate the prevalence of different complications during and after maxillary third molar extraction.

Materials and Methods: An observational study was conducted at Ruby Dental Clinic and Implant Centre, Kunnankulam, Kerala, India from April 2018 to March 2019. Total 120 Patient who were planned for surgical extraction of maxillary third molar were included in this study. All surgical extractions of maxillary third molar were performed under local anesthesia by a qualified and experienced oral and maxillofacial surgeon.

Results: A total of 120 patients of surgical extraction of maxillary third molar were carried out under local anaesthesia over a scheduled period of study. 38 patients were having intra-operative or postoperative complications. Out of 120 patients, 75 were males and 45 were female patients. Most common complications in our study were maxillary tuberosity fracture seen in 13 patients (34.2%). The second most commonly found complication was delayed wound healing 6 (15.8%), postoperative pain 5 (13.2%) and post-operative infection 4 (10.5%).

Conclusion: The risk of complications in third molar surgery will always exist and increases in proportion to the surgical difficulty.

Keywords: Maxillary third molar, complications, surgical procedures, tuberosity fracture

Introduction

Most third molar surgeries are performed without complications. The accident or complication rates related to third molar extraction may vary between 2.6 and 30.9 %, being the results influenced by different factors, such as age and health condition of the patient, gender, tooth impact level, surgeon's experience, smoking, intake of contraceptive medicine, quality of oral hygiene, and surgical technique among others [1]. The overall incidence of complication and the severity of these complications are associated most directly with the depth of impaction and with the age of the patient [2]. Most third molars surgeries are performed without intra-or postoperative difficulties, however sometimes this common procedure can result in several complications. The most common complications following third molar surgery include: sensory nerve damage, dry socket, infection, hemorrhage and pain. Less common complications are: severe trismus, iatrogenic damage to the adjacent second molar and iatrogenic mandibular fracture [3-5].

In all surgical procedures, proper preoperative planning and the blending of surgical technique with surgical principles is of paramount importance for decreasing the incidence of complications [6].

Complications related to third molar removal range from 4.6% to 30.9% and may occur intra-operatively or develop in the postoperative period [6, 7].

The surgeon must inform the patient before surgery of the statistical likelihood of complications so that the patient can make an informed decision as to whether to undergo surgery [5]. Any complication should be handled in a timely and corrective manner by the surgeon [6]. Factors reported to be associated with third molars complications include age, gender, medical history, oral contraceptives, presence of pericoronitis, poor oral hygiene,

Corresponding Author:
Josie Kurian Paul
Senior Lecturer,
Department of Oral and
Maxillofacial Surgery, Royal
Dental College, Palakkad,
Kerala, India

smoking, type of impaction, relationship of third molar to the inferior alveolar nerve, surgical time and technique, surgeon experience, number of teeth extracted, use of perioperative antibiotics, use of topical antiseptics, use of intra-socket medications and anesthetic technique [6, 7].

The experience of surgeon also appears to be a determining factor in the development of postoperative complications and can result in a longer treatment process, social and financial difficulties and a corresponding decrease in patient's life quality [1]. Prior to any surgical procedure, the patient must be informed about the possible accidents and/or complications that may occur during the entire treatment, being aware of the fact that any unexpected situation should be dealt with the best possible way [8]. Hence the present observational study was carried out with the aim to assess the different complications observed during and after surgical removal of maxillary third molar.

Materials and Methods

An observational study was conducted at Ruby Dental Clinic and Implant Centre, Kunnankulam, Kerala, India from April 2018 to March 2019.

Inclusion criteria

- Maxillary third molar extraction patients.

Exclusion criteria

- Systemic disorders that affects the local complication of surgical removal of third molar

Methodology

After taking informed consent detailed history was taken from the patient. The technique, risks, benefits, results and associated complications of the procedure were discussed with all patients. All surgical extractions of maxillary third molar were performed under local anesthesia by a qualified and experienced oral and maxillofacial surgeon.

Total 120 Patient who were planned for surgical extraction of maxillary third molar were included in this study. Data which includes age, sex and region of patient, medical history, frequency of pericoronal infections, use of pre and postoperative medications were verified.

Results

A total of 120 patients of surgical extraction of maxillary third molar were carried out under local anaesthesia over a scheduled period of study. 38 patients were having intra-operative or postoperative complications.

Table 1: Out of 120 patients, 75 were males and 45 were female patients. Male patients had more complications and females counterparts.

Table 2: Most common complications in our study were maxillary tuberosity fracture seen in 13 patients (34.2%). The second most commonly found complication was delayed wound healing 6 (15.8%), postoperative pain 5 (13.2%) and post-operative infection 4 (10.5%). Other less commonly found complications are iatrogenic injury to palate 3 (7.9%), displacement into sinus 2 (5.3%), haemorrhage 2 (5.3%), herniation of buccal fat pad into surgical site 2 (5.3%) and displacement into infratemporal fossa 1(2.6%).

Table 1: Distribution of patients according to age and gender

Variables	N	%
Gender		
Male	75	62.5
Female	45	37.5
Age		
Below 20	5	4.2
20-30	19	15.8
30-40	38	31.7
Above 40	58	48.3
Total	120	100.0

Table 2: Complications during and after surgical extraction

Complications	N	% age
Fracture tuberosity	13	34.2
Delayed wound healing	6	15.8
Post-operative pain	5	13.2
Post-operative infection	4	10.5
Iatrogenic injury to palate	3	7.9
Displacement into sinus	2	5.3
Haemorrhage	2	5.3
Herniation of buccal fat pad into surgical site	2	5.3
Displacement into infratemporal fossa	1	2.6
Total	38	100.0

Discussion

In our study, the most common complications was fractured maxillary tuberosity 13 (34.2%) Patients. Fracture of large maxillary tuberosity bone area is of concern. As maxillary tuberosity is especially important for retention of maxillary dentures. Fractures of the maxillary tuberosity will create problems of denture retention, management of fracture tuberosity is to relocate to its place and maintain environment for healing [9].

Posterior to maxillary third molar is maxillary sinus, and porous bone. That add to fracture of maxillary tuberosity when excessive force applied also anatomical connection of maxillary third molar with maxillary sinus, extraction of third molar can lead to an accidental communication of the sinus or displacement of the tooth in the sinus whenever improper, excessive force and improper use of elevators and forceps. One rare possibility of third molar displacement into infratemporal fossa. Others like fracture of root apex of tooth,

may occur mainly in root morphology such as hypercementosis and ankylosis and conditions that more resistance to avulsion^[10].

In our study the cases of haemorrhage was 2 (5.3%). Haemorrhage could occur through (accident) or after (complication) the surgery, classified as late or recurrent haemorrhage. In such condition of intense bleeding classified as late, the haemorrhage occur only once, after the completion of the procedure. In recurrent haemorrhages, more than one intense bleeding occur, even after initially control bleeding^[8]. Displacement of maxillary third molars into near anatomic spaces may be due poor clinical and radiographic assessment; poor anatomic knowledge, low surgical techniques, improper visibility, inadequate flap reflection and excessive, uncontrolled force during surgical extraction of third molar^[11]. Another postsurgical morbidity after third molar surgery were pain. The post-surgical pain arises when the effects of the local anaesthesia decreases and reaches peak levels in 6 to 12 hours postoperatively. Analgesics should be administered before the effect of the local anaesthesia subsides. In this way, pain is normally easier to control, requires fewer drugs, and may require a less potent analgesic. The administration of NSAIDs before surgery may be advantage in aiding in the control of postoperative pain^[8].

In our study postoperative pain was observed in 5 (13.2%) and post-operative infection 4 (10.5%) was high as compared to other studies. The postoperative infection rate stated in the literature from 1.5% to 5.8%.¹² Antibiotic prophylaxis decreases risk of suffering infection, localised alveolar osteitis and pain after third-molar extractions in healthy adults^[10]. Prior to any surgical procedure, patient must be well know about chances of complications and/or problem may cause during entire treatment, being aware of the fact that any unexpected situation should be dealt with the best possible way^[13].

Conclusion

The risk of complications in third molar surgery will always exist and increases in proportion to the surgical difficulty. However, for cases with a high degree of difficulty, identification of predictor variables may be useful to consider the decision when not to execute the procedure, thus avoiding complications that often require complex management.

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