Abstract [Objective] Recently, the effectiveness of closed wound drainage has been evaluated for various types of orthopedic surgery. Some studies showed insufficient evidence to support the routine use of a drain. In the current analysis, the efficacy of closed suction drainage in anterior spinal fusion for lumbar spinal tuberculosis was retrospectively evaluated. [Patients and Methods] Ninety-one consecutive patients treated from January 1997 to January 2016 were included. Before 2006, a closed suction drainage system was placed immediately before wound closure (31 patients). From 2007, no drain was used (60 patients). The two groups of patients were compared regarding postoperative laboratory data (hemoglobin, albumin, and C-reactive protein [CRP]), postoperative complications (deep hematoma, paralysis, wound infection, wound healing, and wound discharge), and healing of the tuberculous lesion. [Results] There were no significant differences in decrease of hemoglobin and albumin between the second and seventh postoperative day. On the other hand, CRP showed a significantly smaller decrease in patients treated with a drain. Deep hematoma and postoperative paralysis were not detected in either group. Surgical site infection was detected in two patients with a drain. Delayed wound healing was noted in three patients with a drain and one patient without a drain. Persistent discharge was noted in nine patients with a drain. All patients showed excellent healing of the tuberculous lesion. [Conclusion] Comparison between patients with and without a suction drain did not show any definite advantage of drainage. Therefore, the routine use of a drain in anterior spinal fusion for lumbar spinal tuberculosis is not recommended.

Key words: Spinal tuberculosis, Drainage, Postoperative complication

Introduction

Closed wound suction drainage is commonly used in posterior spinal surgery to prevent postoperative hematoma, which can result in paralysis or wound infection. It is also used in anterior spinal fusion for spinal tuberculosis for the same reasons, as well as for the purpose of pus drainage. However, it is questionable whether drainage placement for removing pus from the surgical site is necessary after thorough debridement with anti-tuberculous drug treatment. Recently, the efficacy of closed wound drainage has been evaluated for various types of orthopedic surgery, due to its potential adverse effects, including wound contamination via the drainage tube or excessive bleeding. Some of these studies showed insufficient evidence to support the routine use of postoperative drainage\(^1\)\(^2\). From 2007, we stopped using closed suction drainage in anterior spinal fusion surgery for lumbar spinal tuberculosis in order to avoid the risk of postoperative infection. In the current study, we retrospectively evaluated the efficacy of closed suction drainage in anterior spinal fusion for lumbar spinal tuberculosis by comparing patients with versus without drain placement.

Patients and Methods

We retrospectively reviewed 91 consecutive patients underwent anterior spinal fusion for lumbar spinal tuberculosis from January 1997 to January 2016. The surgery was performed with the patient under general anesthesia. Debridement and tricortical iliac bone grafting were performed using the standard retroperitoneal approach. Before 2006, closed suction drainage systems (a 28FG catheter connected with an under water sealed drain system) were placed immediately before wound closure. Postoperatively, the drains were removed when the daily amount of drainage decreased to little or none. The drain insertion site was sutured after the removal. After 2007, no drain was used. Patients who underwent anterior and posterior fusion were excluded from the analysis. All patients received antibiotics using a standard anti-tuberculous drug.
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**Case Report**

A CASE OF MYCOBACTERIUM INTRACELLULARE PLEURISY DIAGNOSED BY PLEURAL BIOPSY

Akira SHINZATO, Shusaku HARANAGA, Kazuya MIYAGI, Masao TATEYAMA, and Jiro FUJITA

**Abstract** A case of pleurisy from Mycobacterium intracellulare is rare, and there have been no reports on the details of thoracoscopic findings. Here, we report a case of pleurisy caused by M. intracellulare in an 84-year-old woman, with a history of acute hepatitis B virus infection. Following her treatment of acute hepatitis B with steroid pulse and maintenance therapy, she visited the emergency department complaining of high fever and chest pain on her left side. She was diagnosed with pneumonia and parapneumonic effusion due to a chest X-ray showing left-sided pleural effusion, and admitted to our department for treatment. The analysis of pleural effusion revealed an increasing level of adenosine deaminase, therefore, tuberculous pleurisy was the tentative diagnosis. However, chest computed tomography findings on the lingular segment of the left lung suggested a nontuberculous mycobacteria pulmonary infection. Thoracoscopy was performed under local anesthesia. The findings of thoracoscopy showed multiple nodules and small clusters of fibrinous membrane adhesion in both the visceral and parietal pleurae. After pleural biopsy was performed, M. intracellulare was identified using polymerase chain reaction and bacterial culture. Thereafter, this case was diagnosed as M. intracellulare pleuritis. After combination therapy with clarithromycin, rifampicin, ethambutol and streptomycin for M. intracellulare pulmonary disease, the patient improved and clinical symptoms subsided.

**Key words:** Nontuberculous mycobacteria, Pleurisy, Thoracoscope, Adenosine deaminase

Department of Infectious, Respiratory, and Digestive Medicine, Control and Prevention of Infectious Diseases, Faculty of Medicine, University of the Ryukyus

Correspondence to: Shusaku Haranaga, Department of Infectious, Respiratory, and Digestive Medicine, Control and Prevention of Infectious Diseases, Faculty of Medicine, University of the Ryukyus, 207 Uehara, Nishihara-cho, Okinawa 903–0215 Japan.

(E-mail: f014936@med.u-ryukyu.ac.jp)
Between January 2010 and June 2013, three hospitalized patients developed pulmonary tuberculosis during decreased performance status. They consisted of two men and one woman, and were over 60 years old. All of them developed repeated aspiration pneumonia frequently several months before the onset. Chest computed tomography (CT) scan demonstrated fibrotic changes, pleural thickness, and calcification of lung parenchyma or pleura before the onset. One case had previous history of tuberculous pleuritis. Two cases without previous history of tuberculosis underwent interferon-gamma release assay (IGRA) before the onset. One case was indeterminant and one case was positive. After they developed tuberculosis, consolidation, tree-in-bud appearance, centrilobular nodules, miliary nodules, and cavitary lesions were shown by chest CT scan. If elder patients with decreased performance status repeat aspiration pneumonia, chest computed tomography and multiple sputum mycobacterium culture are necessary for excluding pulmonary tuberculosis diagnosis.

Key words: Performance status (PS), Chest computed tomography (CT), Interferon-gamma release assay (IGRA), Aspiration pneumonia

Department of Internal Medicine, National Hospital Organization Niigata National Hospital

Correspondence to: Makoto Takahara, Department of Internal Medicine, National Hospital Organization Niigata National Hospital, 3-52, Akasaka-cho, Kashiwazaki-shi, Niigata 945-8585 Japan. (E-mail: takahara@niigata-nh.go.jp)
Abstract  An 86-year-old woman had been treated with oral prednisolone at 3 mg/day for rheumatoid arthritis. In the beginning of June, 201X, she was admitted to the hospital because of fever and left ophthalmalgia. The left eye showed a red-colored nodule on the left bulbar conjunctiva, and the ophthalmological examinations revealed snow ball vitreous opacity. She was diagnosed with endophthalmitis, and administered antimicrobial and antimycotic drugs. However, her eye manifestation was not improved. Her chest X-ray images showed bilateral miliary shadows, and TB-LAMP of the sputum was positive. In addition, TB-PCR of the left eye aqueous humor was positive. Therefore, we diagnosed miliary tuberculosis with intraocular tuberculosis. After diagnosis, anti-tuberculous combination chemotherapy consisting of isoniazid, rifampicin, and ethambutol was immediately initiated. After 1 month of therapy, the inflammatory reaction was improved, and after 2 months of therapy, her eyesight recovered slightly.

The time-delay in the diagnosis of intraocular tuberculosis lead to loss of eyesight. In advanced tuberculosis cases with eye manifestation, such as ophthalmalgia or eyesight decrease, it is necessary to consider intraocular tuberculosis as the differential diagnosis of eye manifestation in patients with tuberculosis. Therefore, early-stage cooperation with ophthalmology is important.

Key words: Intraocular tuberculosis, Miliary tuberculosis, Steroid

Osaka City Juso Hospital

Correspondence to: Keisuke Kureya, Osaka City Juso Hospital, 2–12–27, Nonaka-kita, Yodogawa-ku, Osaka-shi, Osaka 532–0034 Japan. (E-mail: k.hinachan@live.jp)