

Radioisotope synovectomy in severe hemophiliac patients with chronic synovitis in target joints: The six years experience of Çukurova University, Medical Faculty Hemophilia Team, Turkey

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OBJECTIVES

The most common sites of bleeding in a person with hemophilia are the joints and muscles of the extremities. Once a joint develops as target joints because of recurrent bleeding episodes in hemophiliac patients, chronic changes occur in this target joint. Options for synovectomy include chemical or radioisotopic synoviorthesis and arthroscopic or open surgical synovectomy. Non-surgical synovectomy should be the procedure of choice for treating chronic hemophilic synovitis in hemophilia.

METHODS

In this study, we presented 80 radioisotope synovectomy (RS) with Yttrium-90 and Rhenium-186 in 40 hemophiliac patients, age ranging from 6 to 33 years with a average of 6 years in Çukurova University, Medical Faculty, Hemophilia Team, Adana, Turkey. All patients except one patient with von willebrand disease had severe haemophilia A and B. Two patients (4 joints) had high responder inhibitor. All procedures were performed with fluoroscopy under strict aseptic conditions in Department of Radiology with the coloborations of hemophilia team.

RESULTS

Of 80 target joints, 46 were knees, 25 were elbows, 9 were ankles. Second RS procedure was performed in four patients with hemophilia again. All patients and target joints were evaluated by the hemophilia team which is included pediatric and adult hematologists, radiologist, orthopedics, physical medicine-rehabilitation and nuclear medicine specialists, and sports physiologists.

During procedures, no complication was seen except one patient. In this patient; skin hyperemia and pain occurred in the injection site of joint and bleeding was developed into joint after procedure in 4 joints. All patients and their parents were satisfied with the outcome of RS. But, after two years four patients needed second RS procedure after evaluating of their target joints because of rebleedings.

CONCLUSIONS

Recurent hemarthroses leading to chronic synovitis and progressive arthropaty remain major cause of morbidity in patients with hemophilia. We concluded that RS seems to be a simple, safe and effective treatment procedures for chronic synovitis in hemophiliac patients.



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