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Comparison of Outcomes for Staple and Conventional Closure of the Pharynx Following Total Laryngectomy

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Abstract

Background: Closure of the wall of the pharynx is an important step in the total laryngectomy operation. An inadequate closure results in tissue contamination, wound infection, and the development of pharyngo-cutaneous fistula.

Objective: To study the outcomes of neo-pharyngeal closure after total laryngectomy by stapler compared with conventional techniques.

Material and Method: A retrospective descriptive study of patients undergoing total laryngectomy with either pharyngeal stapling or suturing between January 2007 and December 2011.

Results: Twenty-six patients had pharyngeal stapling, while another twenty-six had a conventional pharyngeal closure. The operative time was significantly less in the stapler group ($p < 0.001$).

Conclusion: Pharyngeal stapling might be an alternative technique for total laryngectomy.

Keywords: Stapler, Total laryngectomy, Conventional, Comparison

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