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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Characteristics of 419 patients with acquired middle ear cholesteatoma[☆]



Letícia Petersen Schmidt Rosito^{a,b,*}, Maurício Noschang Lopes da Silva^{a,b},
Fábio André Selaimen^a, Yuri Petermann Jung^c,
Marcos Guilherme Tibes Pauletti^c, Larissa Petermann Jung^c,
Luiza Alexi Freitas^c, Sady Selaimen da Costa^d

^a Hospital de Clínicas de Porto Alegre, Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil

^b Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS), Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil

^c Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS), Faculdade de Medicina, Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil

^d Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS), Faculdade de Medicina, Departamento de Oftalmologia e Otorrinolaringologia, Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil

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KEYWORDS

Cholesteatoma;
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Abstract

Introduction: Cholesteatoma is a destructive lesion that can result in life-threatening complications. Typically, it presents with hypoacusis and continuous otorrhea as symptoms. Because it is a rare disease, there are few studies in Brazil describing the characteristics of patients with the disease.

Objective: This study aimed to determine the prevalence of cholesteatoma in patients with chronic otitis media and describe clinical, audiological and surgical characteristics of patients with acquired middle ear cholesteatoma treated at a referral hospital in the public health system.

Methods: Cross-sectional and prospective cohort study, including 1710 patients with chronic otitis media, treated between August 2000 and June 2015, without prior surgery. Detailed clinical history, videotoscopy, and audiometry were performed, in addition to review of medical records to search for surgical data. Cholesteatomas were classified according to their route of formation.

Results: Of the patients with chronic otitis media, 419 (24.5%) had cholesteatoma; mean age of 34.49 years; 53.5% female and 63.8% adults. Bilateral cholesteatoma was observed in 17.1%. Anterior epitympanic cholesteatoma corresponded to 1.9%; posterior epitympanic, 32.9%; posterior mesotympanic, 33.7%; two routes, 14.8%; and indeterminate, 16.7%. The mean air-bone

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* Corresponding author.

E-mail: leticiaRosito@gmail.com (L.P. Rosito).

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gap was 29.84 dB and did not differ between routes of formation. There were no correlations between gap size and patient age or duration of symptoms. Of the surgical cases, 16.8% underwent closed tympanomastoidectomy and 75.2% open tympanomastoidectomy.

Conclusion: The prevalence of cholesteatoma in patients with chronic otitis media was 24.5% and it was more common in adults than in children. Posterior mesotympanic cholesteatoma was more frequent, with no difference in mean air-bone gap between the different routes of formation. In patients undergoing surgery, open tympanomastoidectomy was the procedure most frequently chosen.

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PALAVRAS-CHAVE

Colesteatoma;
Orelha média;
Bilateral;
Classificação;
Cirurgia

Características de 419 pacientes com colesteatoma adquirido de orelha média

Resumo

Introdução: Colesteatoma é uma lesão destrutiva que pode determinar complicações potencialmente letais. Tipicamente, apresenta hipoacusia e otorreia contínua como sintomas. Por ser uma doença rara, existem poucos estudos no Brasil que descrevam as características dos pacientes portadores.

Objetivo: O presente estudo teve como objetivos determinar a prevalência de colesteatoma entre os pacientes com otite média crônica (OMC) e descrever características clínicas, audiológicas e cirúrgicas dos pacientes com colesteatoma adquirido de orelha média atendidos em um hospital de referência do sistema público de saúde.

Método: Estudo transversal e de coorte prospectivo, incluindo 1.710 pacientes com OMC, atendidos entre agosto de 2000 e junho de 2015, sem tratamento cirúrgico prévio. Foi realizada anamnese detalhada, videotoscopia e audiometria, além de revisão de prontuários para busca de dados cirúrgicos. Os colesteatomas foram classificados conforme sua via de formação.

Resultados: Dos pacientes com otite média crônica, 419 (24,5%) apresentaram colesteatoma. Média de idade de 34,49 anos; 53,5% do sexo feminino e 63,8% adultos. Colesteatoma foi observado bilateralmente em 17,1%. Os epitimpânicos anteriores corresponderam a 1,9%; os epitimpânicos posteriores a 32,9%; os mesotimpânicos posteriores a 33,7%; duas vias a 14,8% e indeterminados a 16,7%. A média tritonal dos *gaps* aero-ósseos foi de 29,84 dB e não diferiu entre as vias de formação. Não foram observadas correlações entre tamanho do *gap* e idade do paciente ou duração dos sintomas. Dos pacientes operados, 16,8% foram submetidos a timpanomastoidectomia fechada e 75,2% a timpanomastoidectomia aberta.

Conclusão: A prevalência de colesteatoma em pacientes com otite média crônica foi de 24,5%, e foi mais frequente em adultos do que em crianças. Os mesotimpânicos posteriores foram mais frequentes, não sendo observada diferença na média dos *gaps* aero-ósseos entre diferentes vias de formação. Nos pacientes submetidos a cirurgia, a timpanomastoidectomia aberta foi o procedimento escolhido.

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Introduction

Cholesteatoma is considered a benign epithelial lesion with a gradual and destructive expansion, which affects the ear canal and adjacent structures.¹ Epithelial accumulation and bone erosion, characteristic of the disease, typically result in continuous otorrhea and hypoacusis. With the progression of cholesteatoma, there may also be involvement of the inner ear^{2,3} and facial nerve, in addition to serious complications such as meningitis and brain abscess.⁴

The estimated incidence in the general population is 3.7–13.9/100,000.^{5,6} This incidence is lower in children (3/100,000) than in adults (9/100,000).⁷ Because it is a rare disease, epidemiological studies, especially in Brazil, are

scarce. This lack of data makes it impossible to compare studies performed in Brazil with others, as it is not known whether the populations are really similar.

The objectives of this study were to determine the prevalence of cholesteatoma in patients with chronic otitis media (COM); describe the clinical and audiological characteristics of patients with cholesteatoma; and verify the surgical techniques most used in a referral hospital in the public health system.

Methods

This was a cross-sectional and prospective cohort study, including 1710 consecutive patients with COM attended to

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