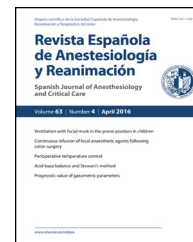




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CASE REPORT

Can videolaryngoscopy be a first option in a patient with laryngeal amyloidosis? ☆



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KEYWORDS

Laryngeal amyloidosis;
Larynx;
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Difficult airway

Abstract Amyloidosis is a term that involves a group of diseases characterised by deposition of extracellular monoclonal light-chain fibrillar immunoglobulin aggregates in the body, including many organs, with the larynx among them.

A case is presented of a 78 year-old man who was referred to our institution for strangulated umbilical hernia treatment. He suffered from progressive hoarseness and dysphagia for 5 months. He had a history of primary laryngeal amyloidosis. Awake intubation was performed successful with the King Vision® video-laryngoscopy. Sedation was achieved using a remifentanyl infusion and midazolam. Haemorrhagic lesions are caused by deposition of amyloid in and around vessels, resulting in increased vascular fragility. Therefore, anaesthetists should take care in intubating the tracheas of these patients.

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PALABRAS CLAVE

Amiloidosis laríngea;
Laringe;
Intubación despierto;
Videolaringscopio;
Anestesia;
Vía aérea difícil

¿Puede la videolaringscopia ser una primera opción en paciente con amiloidosis laríngea?

Resumen La amiloidosis comprende un grupo de trastornos que se distinguen por el depósito de agregados fibrilares de inmunoglobulinas monoclonales de cadenas ligeras en diversos órganos, entre ellos, la laringe.

A continuación presentamos el caso de un varón de 78 años derivado a nuestro hospital para tratamiento quirúrgico de una hernia umbilical estrangulada. El paciente presentaba disfonía y

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disfagia de 5 meses de evolución debido a la presencia de una amiloidosis laríngea. Se decidió realizar la intubación con el paciente despierto, sedado con remifentanilo y midazolán, utilizando el videolaringoscopio King Vision®. Las lesiones hemorrágicas que pueden acontecer en estos pacientes son debidas al depósito de agregados fibrilares de amiloide, que causan una fragilidad vascular que aumenta el riesgo de hemorragia durante la intubación. Por eso es importante que el anestesiólogo realice un cuidadoso manejo de la vía aérea en pacientes con esta entidad.

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Introduction

Amyloidosis is characterised by the deposition of amyloid, which is an amorphous material with a protein structure that produces alterations and clinical manifestations in the affected organ or organs.¹ The amyloid substance is composed of amino acid sequences, very similar to those of the amino-terminal residues of light kappa or lambda polypeptide chains of immunoglobulins. It is an amorphous, eosinophilic material that microscopically appears pink on haematoxylin–eosin staining and shows green birefringence with Congo red staining when observed under polarised light.

Amyloidosis affecting the head and neck area is a rare diagnosis, with the exception of the tongue, which is the target organ of primary systemic or multiple myeloma-related amyloidosis.²

Case report

We present the case of a 78-year-old man with a BMI of 30 kg/m² who was admitted to the Emergency Department due to a strangulated umbilical hernia. His personal history included ankylosing spondylitis with onset 20 years previously, arterial hypertension, type 2 diabetes mellitus and dyslipidaemia which was being treated in the home with simvastatin, enalapril and metformin. Five months earlier he observed the onset of significant dysphonia and dysphagia and was diagnosed with diffuse amyloidosis of posterior commissure and left arytenoids forming an amorphous mass with left vocal cord and subglottic involvement (Fig. 1A and B). He was under follow-up by the Otolaryngology Department, and had been scheduled for excision of the subglottic lesion using CO₂ laser microlaryngoscopy. The patient had been evaluated by the Internal Medicine Department, and amyloidosis-related involvement of other organs had been ruled out.

Examination of the airway revealed a thyromental or Patil distance of 5 cm, retrognathia, significant limitation of cervical flexoextension and Mallampati–Samsoon score of 3.

The patient was transferred to the operating room for emergency median laparotomy and was told that awake intubation with sedation and local anaesthesia would be required. Being very cooperative and pain free,

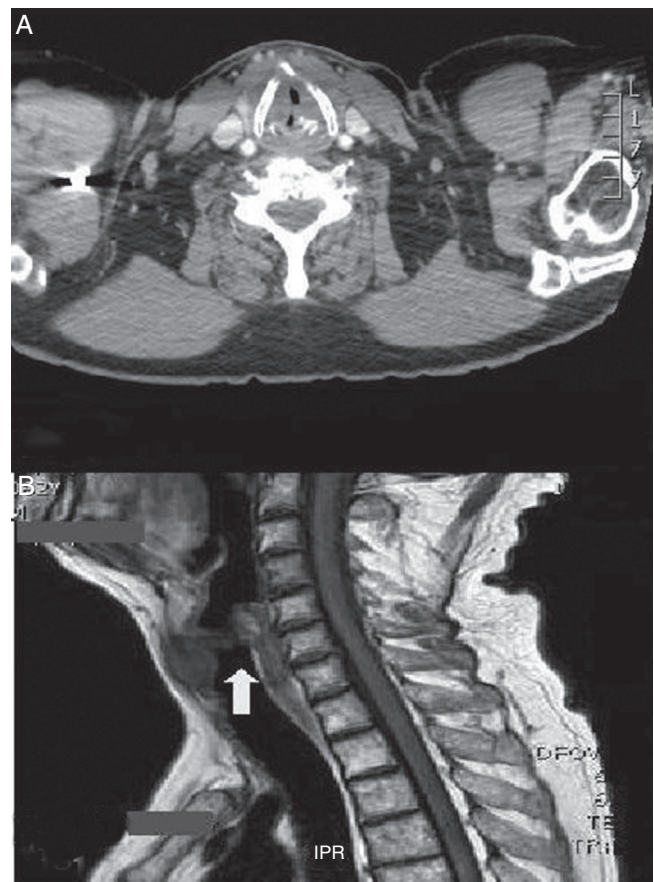


Figure 1 (A) Computerised axial tomography of the neck showing submucosal amyloid infiltration in the subglottic area, resulting in stenosis of the laryngeal lumen. (B) Nuclear magnetic resonance image. Sagittal section, showing amyloid deposit (arrow).

he accepted. Non-invasive arterial pressure, electrocardiogram, pulse oximetry, neuromuscular blockade and bispectral index monitoring was started. The patient was premedicated with intravenous atropine (0.9 mg), followed by administration of 4 ml lidocaine 5% spray, 1 mg of intravenous midazolam, and continuous infusion of remifentanil at a dose of 0.08 µg/kg min⁻¹ along with 8 ml 1% lidocaine gargle. Following administration of the spray, oxygen at

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