

With exudative otitis media injection of medicines into the tympanic cavity

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Abstract. *Treatment for exudative otitis media (ESM) in most cases requires topical application of medications that are designed to stop the inflammatory process and affect the exudate in the middle ear cavity. One of the most common methods of treating ESO is ear tube catheterization with a Guillot catheter, which is not always effective. This paper presents the second stage of the study on the introduction of drugs into the middle ear using an original ear catheter. The study included patients with ESO (N = 14, disease duration from 2 to 3 months). Patients underwent surgical treatment: eardrum bypass surgery, septoplasty, and turbinoplasty under endotracheal anesthesia. An intraoperative experiment was conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of ear tube catheterization with an original catheter, tinted solution and Miramistin solution. In all 14 cases, the tympanic membrane of the affected ear performed oscillatory movements during catheterization, in sync with the reciprocating movements of the syringe plunger. In 2 cases (14.3%), we did not visualize the colored solution behind the eardrum. Total filling of the tympanic cavity with tinted saline solution was 4 patients (28.6%), while the average volume of the administered solution (V) was 4.09 ml, in 8 ears (57.1%) the tympanic cavity was partially filled with contrast solution (V = 7.0 ml). When trans-tubary administration of Miramistin solution into the tympanic cavity in all cases (14 ears) – ingress of antiseptic solution into the external auditory canal after miringotomy. Comparing the average volume of the tympanic cavity with the volume of the drug administered, which is necessary for the initial filling of the tympanic cavity, the minimum loss of the liquid form of the drug was 1: 2.*

Key words: *ear tube catheterization, exudative otitis media, ear tube dysfunction, tympanic cavity, otitis media.*

Introduction

Despite a more significant preventive focus in modern medicine, there is a steady increase in diseases that manifest themselves as persistent hearing loss. WHO predicts that the number of people with socially significant hearing impairments will increase by more than 30% by 2030. Otitis media is the main cause of hearing loss in at least a third of cases, especially in children, with exudative otitis media (ESM) accounting for 15-17% of all ear diseases. ESO was described by Posterior Riverius 3 centuries ago as an independent disease characterized by the formation of a viscous fluid in the middle ear. However, close attention to ESO in the medical literature has been paid only in the last 30-40 years. This is due to a number of reasons: a rapid increase in the disease over the past decades, the complexity of treatment, frequent relapses and a deterioration in the quality of life of patients due to hearing loss. ESO is a polyetiological inflammatory disease of the middle ear, in the etiopathogenesis of which auditory tube dysfunction (DST) plays a key role [5].

As is known, the auditory tube (ST) is a narrow channel about 3.5-3.7 cm long connecting the middle ear cavity with the nasopharynx [6]. There are 3 main ST functions: ventilation, drainage, and protective. When all three functions are provided normally, the fourth function, the acoustic function of the ST, is performed. Accordingly, DST can be considered a violation of at least one of its functions. DST is divided into acute and persistent. There are 3 main pathogenetic types of persistent DST: obstructive, reflux dysfunction, and gaping CT, but factors leading to persistent DST also play a role in the development of acute DST. CT dysfunction is more or less present in all inflammatory diseases of the middle ear, and, as I. V. Otvagin points out, more than a third of all cases of conductive and mixed hearing loss can be associated with impaired CT function.

Treatment of ESO is always complex. First of all, it is necessary to eliminate the causal factors underlying the formation of DST and ESO (surgical/conservative treatment in the pathology of the nasal cavity and nasopharynx, relief of allergic and inflammatory pathologies).

Methods of treating DST vary from observation tactics to surgical treatment. A wait-and-see approach can be used for uncomplicated CT dysfunction, however, according to M. Gluth et al, only a third of cases have spontaneous resolution within 6 weeks. The choice of treatment method depends on the cause of exudate formation in the middle ear, on the stage of development, on the somatic state of the patient and should be individual for each patient. Existing methods of treating ESO with CT dysfunction can be divided into medical, physical, and surgical methods. Treatment of ESO is always complex and is aimed at evacuation of secretions from the tympanic cavity, restoration of CT function. Treatment of acute CT inflammation in most cases requires topical application of medications that are designed to stop the inflammatory process and reduce mucosal edema. Decongestants, antihistamines, and steroid medications are used to improve the function of CT in acute purulent otitis media, ESM, and tubotitis. Используются деконгестанты, антигистаминные, стероидные препараты. In the treatment of ESO, in addition to the effect on the ST, agents that affect the exudate are of great importance. Mucoregulators, mucokinetics, and mucolytics are used to change the drainage function of the ST and to change the rheological properties of the exudate. Используются мукоактивные лекарственные вещества: мукорегуляторы, мукокинетики и муколитики. Mucolytics, in turn, are subdivided into enzyme and non-enzyme ones.

Physical methods include various exercises aimed at improving the function of the CT and promoting the removal of exudate – the so-called gymnastics for CT. The patient independently performs exercises aimed at improving the ventilation and drainage functions of the ST. Physical methods also include procedures performed by an ENT doctor: pneumomassage of the tympanic membrane (hardware, using a Siegle funnel), and Politzer CT (Политцеру).

When evaluating the mobility of the tympanic membrane during CT catheterization, we found that in all 14 cases (100%), the tympanic membrane of the affected ear performed oscillatory movements synchronously with the reciprocating movements of the syringe plunger. Thus, the result obtained by us ($P = 1$ point according to VAS) indicates that CT catheterization with an original ear catheter allows you to forcibly change the pressure in the tympanic cavity as a result of moving intra-tympanic contents (air or liquid).

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