



Surgical excision of symptomatic sacral perineurial Tarlov cyst: case series and review of the literature

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Abstract

Object

Symptomatic sacral perineural cysts are extremely rare. The aim of this retrospective study is to investigate the outcome of 15 consecutive patients treated by microsurgical resection of the cyst and to review the literature.

Methods

The authors retrospectively reviewed their clinical data archive from 2002 to 2014. Fifteen patients who were operated on due to symptomatic sacral perineural cysts were enrolled in the study. Patients' symptoms, radiographs, intra-operative findings, and clinical results were evaluated. All 15 patients underwent microsurgical excision of the cyst. The literature on this topic available in PubMed was also reviewed.

Results

There were 5 men and 10 women included in the study, with a mean age of 31 years (range 7–60 years). Preoperative symptoms include low back pain, coccydynia, buttock pain, perianal pain and radicular pain. All of the patients underwent surgical resection. The mean follow-up was 54 months (range 3–160 months). All the patients experienced complete or substantial resolution of the preoperative local and radicular pain after surgery.

Conclusions

Cyst excision is an effective and safe technique for symptomatic sacral perineural (Tarlov) cysts. Careful patient selection is vital to the management and treatment of this difficult and controversial pathology.

Keywords

Tarlov cyst Perineural cyst Sciatica

Abbreviations

MRI

Magnetic resonance imaging

VAS

Visual analog scale

MRC

Medical research council

CT

Computerized tomography

CSF

Cerebrospinal fluid

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Notes

Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest

The authors have no interest in the materials and methodology advanced in this manuscript. The study was done after consent was taken from all patients and full discussion with them about benefits and hazards of surgical approach.

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