
Tilmelding af Foredrag

Foredragets titel

Investigation of vocal cord palsy - timing and relevance of imaging

Forfatter(e)

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Introduktion

This study investigates the diagnostic yield and timing of imaging modalities in patients with vocal cord palsy (VCP) of unknown etiology after initial clinical investigation.

Materiale/metode

In this retrospective study, we included patients with VCP of unknown cause after initial clinical examination in the period 2005-2016. The following data was obtained from the medical charts: demographic data, location of VCP, date of the first consultation, diagnostic findings during initial and follow-up investigations, and conclusion regarding cause of VCP.

Resultater

Of the 173 eligible patients, occult malignancy was found in 46 patients (26.6%). In 16/173 (9,2%) patients, diagnostic imaging found a causative structural benign disorder and in 13/173 (7.5%) patients, VCP was caused by a medical condition. After complete investigation and follow-up 98/173 (56,6%) patients were classified as idiopathic. CT of the neck and upper chest and full body PET-CT presented the highest diagnostic effectiveness of 96.9% and 100%, respectively. The remaining imaging modalities showed considerably lower diagnostic effectiveness.

Diskussion

MRI of the neck and brainstem combined with either CT of the neck and upper chest or full body PET-CT were sufficient to diagnose any extra-laryngeal pathology causing VCP. Once initial investigation had ruled out pathology further imaging was unnecessary if these imaging modalities were performed. Further follow-up imaging provided little or no extra information. Thus, we suggest that follow-up imaging should be reserved for patients who develop new symptoms.

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