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Alcohol ablation and adjunct vertebroplasty procedure of symptomatic vertebral hemangiomas

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Background: The vertebral hemangiomas are benign vascular lesions. Although the most of the time are asymptomatic, sometimes vertebral hemangiomas can be painful and can limit daily activities

Objectives: A big number of therapeutic methods have been used for the vertebroplasty in patients with painful vertebral hemangiomas for treating these lesions. The treatments of symptomatic vertebral hemangiomas have its own limitations. Our objective was to evaluate the therapeutic efficacy of alcohol ablation followed with cement.

Study Design & Methods: Twenty-one patients from January 2009 to August 2016 with symptomatic vertebral hemangiomas were treated by injection of absolute alcohol (99%) followed with cement vertebroplasty into the lesion via the percutaneous transpedicular plane under biplane C-Arm guidance. All patients had clinical and MRI functional status, using the visual analogue scale(VAS) and the Oswestry Disability Index Questionnaire (ODI), clinical examination, and plain radiographs at six and 12months after operation.

Results: All patients showed deterioration of pain status after alcohol ablation and verteroblasty. Subsequently, excellent results were seen in ten(10/21)patients, nine(9/21) patients had "very good" pain outcome and two of them(2/21)were in the"fairly good" classification.One patient developed recurrent hemangioma within 20 months.No correlation was found between clinical improvement and MRI images.

Conclusions: Alcohol ablation and adjunct vertebroplasty procedure is an effective management option for symptomatic vertebral hemangiomas. Although encouraging results were seen in all of ourpatients, greater numbers and longer follow-up period,still is needed to assess the stability of improvement

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