

List of Contents

Title	Page
▪ List of Abbreviations	I
▪ List of Tables	III
▪ List of Figures	VI
▪ List of Diagrams	IX
▪ Introduction	1
▪ Aim of the Work	3
▪ Review of Literature	
- General Features of Hirschsprung's disease.....	4
- Embryological Features of the Enteric Nervous System Related to Hirschsprung's Disease	11
- Historical Background of Hirschsprung's Disease Pathology	18
- Pathological Features of Hirschsprung's Disease	20
- Other Stains Used to Detect the Hirschsprung's Disease.....	27
- Management	34
▪ Methodology	58
▪ Results	64
▪ Discussion	82
▪ Summary	86
▪ Conclusion and Recommendations	87
▪ References	89
▪ Arabic Summary	--

List of Abbreviations

AchE	Acetylcholinesterase
AD	Autosomal dominant
AR	Autosomal recessive
BMI	Body Mass Index
CI	Confidence interval
CNS	Central nervous system
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid
DS	Down syndrome
ECE-1	Endothelin converting enzyme 1
EDN3	Endothelin 3
EDNRB	Endothelin receptor type B
ENS	Enteric nervous system
GDNF	Glial cell-derived neurotrophic factor
GLU	Glucose transporter
H/E	Hematoxylin and Eosin
HAEC	Hirschsprung-associated enterocolitis
HD	Hirschsprung's Disease
IBD	Inflammatory Bowel Disease
ICC	Interstitial cells of Cajal
MEN 2	Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia 2
OR	Odds Ratio
PHOX2B	Paired-like homeobox 2b
QoL	Quality of Life
SOX10	Sex determining region Y box 10
SRY	Sex determining region Y
TCA	Total colonic aganglionosis

List of Abbreviations

TZTransitional Zone

WHOWorld Health Organization

List of Tables

Table No.	Title	Page
Table (1):	Epidemiology and recurrence risk of HD	5
Table (2):	Dilator size by age	45
Table (3):	Telephone questionnaire scores for patients older than 3 years.....	48
Table (4):	HAEC score (the Langer score).....	53
Table (5):	Telephone questionnaire scores for patients HAEC, Hirschprung-associated enterocolitis	60
Table (6):	Demographic characteristics of studied cases	65
Table (7):	Specimen length (cm) of studied cases....	65
Table (8):	Outcome among the studied cases	66
Table (9):	Comparison between bowel outcomes regarding demographic data and specimens length.....	67
Table (10):	Transitional zone Histopathological Features.....	70
Table (11):	Comparison between bowel outcomes regarding Transitional zone pathology Ganglion cells.....	71
Table (12):	Comparison between bowel outcomes regarding Transitional zone pathology: Auerbach's and Meissner's nerve bundle.....	71

List of Tables

Table No.	Title	Page
Table (13):	Show that: Mixed inflammatory cells were significantly more frequent among cases with postoperative Group B.....	72
Table (14):	Wide zone pathology among the studied cases	73
Table (15):	Comparison between bowel outcomes regarding wide zone pathology: Auerbach's nerve bundle Meissner's nerve bundle	76
Table (16):	Comparison between bowel outcomes regarding wide zone pathology: Inflammatory cells.....	77
Table (17):	Diagnostic performance of wide zone nerve bundles mean diameter in prediction of Group B.....	80
Table (18):	Diagnostic Characteristics of wide zone Auerbach'e nerve bundles mean diameter $\geq 68.0 \mu\text{m}$ in prediction of Group B	81

List of Figures

Figure No.	Title	Page
Fig. (1):	Diagrams showing different types of HD	5
Fig. (2):	Clinical picture of HD: in 2-day-old infant with marked abdominal distention and failure to pass meconium. Suction rectal biopsy confirmed HD	6
Fig. (3):	Water-soluble contrast enema (AP and lateral views) demonstrating a transition zone in the recto-sigmoid colon	8
Fig. (4):	Retention of contrast on a 24-hour post-evacuation film	9
Fig. (5):	A) In the child without HD undergoing anorectal manometry, the recto-anal inhibitory reflex is normal. (B) A child with HD is seen to have abnormally increased contraction of the anal canal and no relaxation of the internal sphincter with rectal distention	10
Fig. (6):	The fetal bowel is colonized by migration from vagal	14
Fig. (7):	Anatomy of the enteric nervous system showing different layers of the intestinal wall	21

List of Figures

Figure No.	Title	Page
Fig. (8):	No; HD Hematoxylin and eosin stain (100×). Formalin fixation and hematoxylin and eosin-stained section	25
Fig. (9A):	HD Hematoxylin + eosin stain. Formalin fixation and hematoxylin + eosin-stained section (50×)	25
Fig. (9B):	HD Hematoxylin and eosin (100×). Hematoxylin and eosin-stained section; transitional zone.....	26
Fig. (10):	Diff-Quik (400×). Frozen preparation - intra - operative Diff-Quik-stained section normal	29
Fig. (11):	Non Hirschsprung disease: Normally innervated rectal mucosa	31
Fig. (12):	Hirschsprung disease: Rectal mucosa	31
Fig. (13):	Thickness of nerve fibres and perineurial staining with S100 and Glut1, respectively	32
Fig. (14A):	Cholinesterase staining in normal colon ...	32
Fig. (14B):	Cholinesterase staining in colon affected by Hirschsprung disease	33
Fig. (15):	a): Swenson's full-thickness recto-sigmoid dissection. (b) Soave's endorectal dissection. (c) Rectorectal pouch (Duhamel).....	38

List of Figures

Figure No.	Title	Page
Fig. (16):	Mobilization of colon with division of mesentery	41
Fig. (17):	a) Operations for long-segment Hirschsprung disease Martin procedure. B) Operations for long-segment Hirschsprung disease Kimura procedure	44
Fig. (18):	Algorithm for care of the post pull-through problem patient	47
Fig. (19):	Enterocolitis can be a major cause of morbidity and mortality, both before any operative procedure for Hirschsprung disease and in the postoperative period	51
Fig. (20A):	Guideline for the diagnosis of HAEC	54
Fig. (20B):	Guideline for the management of HAEC based on grade for Guideline of HAEC	55
Fig. (21):	Image analyzer Meissner's	67
Fig. (22):	Image analyzer Auerbach's	68
Fig. (23):	The submucosal Meissner's nerve bundles appeared prominent.....	70
Fig. (24):	A) Normal looking ganglionic cells. B) Abnormal looking ganglionic	74
Fig. (25):	Diseased Auerbach's nerve bundles.....	74
Fig. (26):	Auerbach's with normal and abnormal ganglionic X400	75

List of Figures

Figure No.	Title	Page
Fig. (27):	A) Normal Auerbach's bundle.	
	B) Hypertrophied Auerbach's nerve bundle	78

List of Diagrams

Diagram No.	Title	Page
Diag. (1):	Post-operative bowel condition among the studied cases	66
Diag. (2):	Comparison between bowel outcomes regarding wide zone nerve bundle mean diameter	78
Diag. (3):	Comparison between bowel outcomes regarding wide zone inflammatory cells	79
Diag. (4):	ROC curve for wide zone nerve bundles mean diameter in prediction of Group B from Group A.....	80

Abstract

Background: Despite the increased knowledge of Hirschsprung's Disease (HD) by advances in the understanding of the embryogenesis and surgical care, still, significant complications continue to be associated with the different procedures. However the most annoying complications are the persistent constipation and the recurrent enterocolitis induced by transitional zone pull-through or residual aganglionosis. Nevertheless in literature review both were mentioned as the major cause of redo-pullthrough⁽¹⁾.

Aim of the Work: The aim of this study is to define the characteristic histopathological features of the transitional zone in patients with HD, and its impact on the clinical outcome.

Methodology:

Study: Retrospective and prospective cohort study was conducted to study the histopathological features (regarding ganglion cells and nerve bundle) of the transitional zone in patients with HD from 2010-2016, and its impact on the clinical outcome. Was performed in Pediatric surgery department in Ain Shams university hospitals in the period between 2015-2016.

Results Clinical outcome postoperatively among the 35 studied cases 71.4% were of good outcome (group A) they have normal or semi normal bowel habits after surgery; while (group B) 28.6% had recurrent bowel symptoms. The two groups were compared with their histopathological findings. The significant findings were found in group B: the histopathological findings in the proximal wide assumed to be healthy part Ganglion cells are present in all cases and are classic, inspite of that Aurbach's nerve bundle show focal disarray in 28.6% and are unmyelinated in 65.7% ,moreover their mean diameter 65.8 ± 16.2 (μm) with range of 40.5–117.2 (μm). Meissner's nerve bundle in the same specimens show mean diameter 36.0 ± 10.4 (μm) with range 11.5–62.8 (μm). Cases with postoperative group B had significantly more frequent focal disarray of nerve bundles, acute& mixed inflammatory cells and larger nerve bundles diameter.

Conclusion: Wide zone Auerbach's nerve bundles mean diameter ≥ 68.0 μm had high sensitivity & (**Negative Predictive value**) NPV and other diagnostic characteristics moderate in prediction of abnormal bowel.

Keywords: Hirschsprung's disease postoperative outcome, histopathological features Transition-zone pull-through Residual aganglionosis Redo pull-through operation.

INTRODUCTION

Hirschsprung's disease HD is a congenital megacolon characterized by the absence of ganglion cells in the myenteric and submucosal plexuses of the intestine (*Jacob, 2014*). HD incidence approximately 1:5,000 live births (*Jeffrey and Levitt, 2017*), (*Matthew et al, 2017*), (*Jacob, 2014*), (*Lake and Heuckeroth, 2013*). Moreover HD is relatively the most common cause of intestinal obstruction in the newborn (*Jacob, 2014*), (*Pure, 2011*). The first description in the modern medical literature of Hirschsprung's disease was in 1886 by a pediatrician Harald Hirschsprung, from Copenhagen, who described two cases. However the first description of a reconstructive operation for HD was in 1949 by Swenson, but still there were technical difficulties in small infants and many children who presented with debilitated and malnourished state (*Jacob, 2014*). Nevertheless the staged surgical approach has changed dramatically over the past three decades, and transition to primary pull-through is now the predominant. As the transanal pull-through is now used by a large proportion of pediatric surgeons. Moreover the minimal invasive surgery is used to facilitate both the diagnosis of HD and the pull-through procedure, therefore, also become one of the common pull-through procedure (*Teitelbaum and Coran, 2013*).

The diagnoses of HD is usually based on clinical history, radiological studies, anorectal manometry and in particular rely on histopathological examination of rectal wall biopsy (*Pure, 2011*). The gold standard for the diagnosis is the absence of ganglion cells in the submucosal and myenteric plexuses on histological examination. Most of patients will also have evidence of hypertrophied nerve trunks, although this finding is not always present, particularly in children with total colonic HD or a very short aganglionic segment HD (*Jacob, 2014*).

Despite the increased knowledge of HD by advances in the understanding of the embryogenesis and surgical care, significant complications continue to be associated with the different procedures (*Teitelbaum and Coran, 2013*). However the most annoying ones are the late complications include constipation, enterocolitis, incontinence anastomatic problems, adhesive bowel obstruction and urogenital complications (*Pure, 2011*). However these long-term problems mandate close follow up of these patients ; at least until they are through the toilet training process, in order to identify and provide timely treatment for these problems (*Jacob, 2012*).

AIM OF THE WORK

The aim of this study is to define the characteristic histopathological features of the transitional zone in patients with HD, and its impact on the clinical outcome.