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ROLE OF INTRATYMPANIC STEROID INJECTION IN TREATMENT OF OTITIS MEDIA WITH EFFUSION: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW/ META -ANALYSIS

Thesis

Submitted for partial fulfillment of the Master Degree in
Otorhinolaryngology

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Ain Shams University
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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

قالوا

سبحانك لا علم لنا
إلا ما علمتنا إنك أنت
العليم العظيم

صدق الله العظيم

سورة البقرة الآية: ٣٢



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List of Contents

Page No.	Title
i	List of abbreviations
ii	List of Tables
iii	List of Figures
1	Introduction
3	Aim of the Work
<u>Review of literature</u>	
Chapter	●
4 (1): Anatomy of Middle Ear, Physiology and Pathophysiology of OME	
Chapter	●
13	(2): Management of OME
34	Materials and Methods
41	Results
50	Discussion
59	Summary
60	Conclusion
61	References
--	Arabic summary

List of Abbreviations

Full term	Abbr.
American Academy of Family Physicians	AAFP
American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery	AAO-HNS
American Academy of Pediatrics	AAP
Adenoidal hypertrophy	AH
Acute otitis media	AOM
Confidence interval	CI
Degree of freedom	DF
Eustachian tubes	ET
Inconsistency	I^2
Intratympanic injections of dexamethasone	ITD
Otitis media with effusion	OME
Cochran Chi Square	Q
Sensory-neural hearing loss	SNHL
Upper respiratory tract infection	URTI
Ventilation tubes	VTs

List of Tables

Page No.

Title

Table No.

Error!

Table (1):

Bookmark not defined.

Error!

Table (2):

Bookmark not defined.

Improvement on

Table (3):

45

medical treatment

Error!

Table (4):

Bookmark not defined.

List of Figures

Page No.

Title

Figure No.

Anatomy of

Figure (1):

4

Ear including ME cavity.

Eustachian

Figure (2):

6

tube position in infants and adults

Error!

Figure (3):

Bookmark not defined.

Error!

Figure (4):

Bookmark not defined.

Otovent®

19

Figure (5):

device

Injection of

27

Figure (6):

steroids

43

Figure (7):

44

Figure (8):

46

Figure (9):

47

Figure (10):

49

Figure (11):

Abstract

Background: Otitis media with effusion (OME) is a worldwide major health problem for both children and adults, who have a history of chronic eustachian tube dysfunction.

Aim of the Work: to review the effect of intratympanic injection of steroids in treatment of chronic otitis media with effusion (persistent more than 3 months after failure to medical treatment [e.g. local & systemic steroids or decongestants] or surgical ventilation tubes).

Material and Methods: This systematic review was done as a collective analysis of 5 retrospective and prospective cohort studies done on patients with OME. Studies on Patients who were diagnosed with chronic otitis media with effusion not responding to conventional methods of treatment. **Results:** The data analysed and results showed an improvement of 41.2% of the cases treated with intratympanic injection of steroids compared to 11% improvement in cases treated by conventional medical methods with a relative improvement around 6.4 folds to intratympanic injection of steroids over medical treatment. All of these studies have shown that there are more advantages of directed ototopical steroid therapy over systemic therapy. Topical medications often have limited systemic effects due to their limited systemic uptake. It may be less expensive as compared to systemic medications.

Conclusion: Intratympanic injection of long acting steroids has good effect in management of OME resistant to medical and surgical treatment and has superior effect and high rate of recovery on local nasal steroid spray. In children combination of ventilation tubes and intratympanic injection of steroids is the best known modality of treatment. Further studies are needed to evaluate the best medical treatment of chronic OME.

Key words: intratympanic steroid, treatment, otitis media, effusion, resistant, injection



Introduction

INTRODUCTION

titis media with effusion (OME) or glue ear is the collection of fluid behind the tympanic membrane without inflammatory signs present for 6 weeks (*Berkman et al., 2013*).

By the age of 4 years, around **80%** of children will have had an episode of OME, most of which resolve and **10%** of episodes last for a year or

more

(*Williamson et al., 2009*).

The natural history of otitis media is very favorable. Combined estimates of spontaneous resolution provide a benchmark, against which new or established interventions can be evaluated. The need for surgery in children with recurrent acute otitis media (AOM) or chronic OME should be balanced against the likelihood of timely spontaneous resolution and the potential risk for learning, language, or other adverse sequelae from persistent middle ear effusion (*Rosenfeld et al., 2016*).

OME is the most common cause of hearing impairment (and the most common reason for elective surgery) in children, where it usually follows an episode of AOM. It is uncommon in adults, in whom Eustachian tube dysfunction is the predominant cause and suspicious aetiologies should be considered (*Atkinson et al., 2015*).

OME is the leading cause of hearing loss in children. Prolonged or fluctuating hearing impairment in early childhood may result in long-term consequences for delayed speech & language development (*Gates et al., 2008*).

Adenoidal hypertrophy (AH) and OME are the most frequent indications for surgery in children. The current treatment options for OME include the following: elimination of the risk factors, follow-up without treatment, use of antibiotic and/or decongestant medication, if medical treatment fails, tympanostomy tube placement with or without adenoidectomy (*Rosenfeld et al., 2016*).

A potential role of corticosteroids in the treatment of OME has emerged. The short-term use of systemic steroids provides a temporary improvement, but long-term use of systemic steroids is not appropriate in children due to severe side effects. In contrast, topical nasal steroids without systemic side effects might be used (*Cengel and Akyol, 2006*).