

Surgical Treatment and Reconstruction of Nasal Defects According to the Aesthetic Subunits Principles

Abstract

The aim of this study was to determine the prevalence of nasal skin cancer, its location by facial aesthetic subunits and the type of reconstructive procedures performed for each nasal subunit after excision for nasal skin tumors. Observational cross-sectional study of all consecutive patients with the diagnosis of skin tumor located in the nasal unit, treated from 2018 to 2019 by the department of head and neck surgery of a general hospital. 60 patients were treated with nasal skin tumors excisions. A total of 52 patients (86,6%) had basal cell skin cancer, 7 (11,6%) had squamous cell skin cancer and 1 (1,6%) had melanoma. Fifty-nine patients (98.33%) presented a primary tumor and just 1 case (1,66%) received a previous surgical treatment. Regardless of the type of tumor, the tip subunit was the most often involved with 29 (48,33%) cases in total. Despite of the nasal aesthetic subunit affected, the most frequent type of procedure used for reconstruction was the rotation or advancement flap, based on aesthetic nasal subunits, which was performed in 39 cases (65%). Nasal reconstruction after skin cancer can be very complex, especially since all patients have high expectations about the results. In order to achieve good results, there is a necessity for careful analysis of the defect, correct planning and excellent technical execution of the procedures. Frequently, staged procedures will be needed to achieve an optimal result.

Keywords: Facial aesthetic units, Skin cancer, Nasal reconstruction