

Peer Review File

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Reviewer A

Comment 1: Coresection of esophagus in thiroidectomy is not a rare situation, the authors did not provide any preoperative work-up study. In addition, intraoperative tranfer should be avoided by careful preoperative diagnosis and surgical strategy.

Reply 1: Thanks for your comment. The literature we have consulted confirms the rarity of this complication (complete esophagus lesion during thyroidectomy. We agree with the reviewer for what concern the pre- and peri-operative patient mismanagement, as guidelines were not followed.

Changes in the text: ---

Reviewer B

Comment 1: This is an interesting case report of a complete transection of the esophagus during thyroidectomy. It is worth sharing the complication with other surgeons so that perhaps it could be prevented in the future. However, the manuscript needs to be carefully edited and rewritten by an English-speaking writer because there are numerous grammatical errors and it is hard to follow.

Reply 1: Thanks for your comment. The English language has been edited.

Changes in the text: ---

Reviewer C

Comment 1: Abstract: the background could be shortened (the two first sentences could be summarized into one single sentence, for instance). Besides, this background is not developed in the introduction of the manuscript, which is unusual (the abstract should summarize the article, without adding anything to it).

Reply 1: We made the requested changes and merged the first two sentences into one sentence.

Changes in the text: *“Several diagnostic and therapeutic processes are regulated by guidelines and recommendations provided by International and National Societies which offer standardized indications for health-care practitioners, including the treatment of pathologies that may affect the thyroid gland.”*

Comment 2: Line 33 and 82: it seems a bit surprising to specify “left” recurrent laryngeal nerve injury.

Reply 2: As requested, we erased the term “left”.

Changes in the text: ---

Comment 3: Highlight box: “this is why, for the sake of patients, it should be always follow the guidelines and keep up to date.” rephrase the sentence

Reply 3: As requested, we have rewritten the Highlight Box sentence.

Changes in the text: ---

Introduction.

Comment 4: Lines 67-80: one sentence is not enough to make a paragraph. Arranging the text in logical paragraphs makes it easier to read.

Reply 4: As suggested, we have combined the sentences to make a single paragraph.

Changes in the text: -----

Comment 5: Line 90: “At the same time, the recurrent laryngeal nerves involvement is responsible for dysphonia in 5-11% of patients, which is then permanent in 1-3.5%”. “Involvement” doesn’t seem the best wording here. Proximity? Dissection?

Reply 5: As suggested we replaced “involvement” with “dissection.”

Changes in the text: “... *the recurrent laryngeal nerves dissection is responsible for...*”

Comment 6: Line 104: This manuscript is written following (xxx) checklist. CARE checklist

Reply 6: As suggested we replaced “xxx” with “CARE”

Changes in the text: “...*written following CARE checklist.*”

Comment 7: Overall, the introduction seems a bit too long and sometimes off-topic (details of RLN palsy and other complications).

Reply 7: As suggested, we have erased some details about complications from the introduction.

Changes in the text: -----

Case description.

Comment 8: Basedow’s disease is sometimes referred to as “Grave’s disease” in the article. The authors should consider harmonizing its denomination throughout the manuscript.

Reply 8: As suggested, we have used a single denomination to refer to the pathology.

Changes in the text: “ *Graves-Basedow’s disease*”.

Comment 9: Line 116: differential diagnostic => diagnosis

Reply 9: As suggested, we have replaced “diagnostic” with “diagnosis”

Changes in the text: “*..the differential diagnosis...*”

Comment 10: Line 115 & 120: put “requested” instead of “required”?

Reply 10: As suggested, we have replaced “requested” with “required”

Changes in the text: “*...requested standard...*” “*... “requested rules...”*”

Comment 11: Lines 127-128: Maybe this sentence should come later on, after the patient’s management.

Reply 11: As suggested we moved the sentence.

Changes in the text: “*... Furthermore, the histological examination allowed to diagnose Hashimoto's thyroiditis, and not Graves-Basedow's disease.*”

Comment 12: Did the patient also suffer from a recurrent laryngeal nerve palsy?

Reply 12: The required data were specified.

Changes in the text: “*...with paralysis in abduction of the ipsilateral vocal cord and compensation of the contralateral vocal cord.*”

Comment 13: Did the surgeon complete the second lobectomy (if he started with the left lobe) despite the occurrence of this complication?

Reply 13: The required data has been specified.

Changes in the text: “*...after performing the total thyroidectomy.*”

Comment 14: Review the use of tenses in your case description: everything should be in past tenses instead of present.

Reply 14: As suggested, the case report has been rewritten using the past tense.

Changes in the text: ----

Comment 15: Line 133: here and elsewhere in the text, what does “jejuno-esophagus-end-terminal anastomosis” refer to? End-to-end/termino-terminal anastomosis?

Reply 15: This type of surgery was done to restore the continuity of the GI tract. A free jejunal loop has been picked up to perform an anastomosis with the pharynx proximally and the esophagus distally.

Changes in the text: ---

Comment 16: Figure 1 (line 304): what do you mean by “detached stitches”? Interrupted suture?

Reply 16: No, with the sentence “detached stitches” we refer to a suture made "stitch by stitch", and not with a single stitch. Anyway we erased the word “detached” to avoid misunderstandings.

Changes in the text: “... with 3/0 vicryl stitches...”

Discussion.

Comment 17: Line 151: “At the same time an ultrasound examination of the gland should always be performed [19].” => this wording wrongly gives the impression that it was not performed in the clinical case reported herein.

Reply 17: As suggested, we have rephrased the sentence to make it more understandable.

Changes in the text: “...an ultrasound examination should also be performed to evaluate the echo-structural alterations of the gland.”

Comment 18: Line 155: “The treatment of this pathology consists of anti-thyroid drugs, radioactive iodine (RAI) with iodium and surgery” => I would rather say “and/or surgery”

Reply 18: As requested, we have made the correction.

Changes in the text: “and/or...”

Comment 19: Line 157: “response of the treatments” => response to the treatments

Reply 19: As requested, we have made the correction.

Changes in the text: “... response to the treatments...”

Comment 20: What are the clinical guidelines regarding Grave’s disease management in Italy? Citing them would emphasize the physician’s liability.

Reply 20: Thank you for your suggestion. Unfortunately, there are no specific Italian guidelines for Graves-Basedow’s disease, therefore we have mentioned the American ones.

Changes in the text: ---

Comment 21: The details of the treatment of Grave’s disease seem too long, a bit out of topic and sometimes repeat themselves, at least partly (lines 178-180, lines 181-185). This could be shortened.

Reply 21: As suggested we have eliminated some details about Graves-Basedow’s disease

Changes in the text: ---

Comment 22: Lines 194-197: while this plane is indeed usually obvious, the authors could mention that an excessive bleeding in the context of a thyroiditis could hinder the identification of this plane. Lines 200-201: “In the presented case, there were no anatomical and/or pathological factors negatively affecting the thyroid dissection from esophagus in order to promote the risk of a

complete esophagus section.” This is true, with the exception of the bleeding maybe.

Reply 22: As suggested, we have mentioned another risk factor.

Changes in the text: ---

Comment 23: If the medico-legal suit already came to an end, was the surgeon indeed sentenced?

Reply 23: The required data has been specified.

Changes in the text: ---

Comment 24: Lines 214 and 216 have blanks that need filling.

Reply 24: We have made the required changes.

Changes in the text: ----

Reviewer D

Thank you for your suggestion.

Comment 1: English editing is required.

Reply 1: We have revised the English to make the article easier to read.

Changes in the text: ---

Comment 2: Reference no 16 should be cited at the sentence starting 'A meta-analysis that included 14,934~'.

Reply 2: We have moved the reference number 16 as you indicated by inserting it at the beginning of the sentence.

Changes in the text: ----

Comment 3: As authors described in discussion, Basedow's disease should be suspected with lab test. Therefore, initial lab test results including TSH, T3, and free T4 should be shown to illustrate how the clinicians could make misdiagnosis.

Reply 3: As required, we have added pre-operative TSH FT4 FT3 values.

Changes in the text: Lines 315-316“... *Then, a new serum assay of the main thyroid function indicators showed normal values of TSH (1.990 mU/ml), FT4 (1.03 ng/dl) and FT3 (4.07 pg/ml).*”

Comment 4: Did the patient eventually undergo lt lobectomy or total thyroidectomy?

Reply 4: The required data has been specified.

Changes in the text: “... *after performing total thyroidectomy ...*”

Comment 5: Authors mentioned that definitive tracheostomy was necessary. What is the reason?

Reply x: We have changed our statement.

Changes in the text: ---

Comment 6: Postoperative hospital course should be described so that the readers can understand the case better.

Reply 6: The required data has been reported.

Changes in the text: ---

Comment 7: Figure is most important to understand the consequence of the malpractice. Authors described that a free jejunal loop autotransplantation was done. However, the current figures are not easy to understand the anastomosis. Please indicate which is jejunum and which are the both ends of the esophagus.

Reply 7: The images refer to the previous esophagus-esophagus anastomosis operation, erroneously not reported in the text. This intervention has been added and the reference to the figure has been corrected.

Changes in the text: “ *Immediately, the anastomosis of proximal and distal esophagus was performed (Figure 1) allowing the patient to transfer to a specific center for the recanalization of the gastrointestinal tract.*”