

SUMMARY

This is a retrospective study of 169 cases of carcinoma of the larynx treated surgically at the National Cancer Institute, Cairo University by total laryngectomy and followed by primary closure of the pharynx between 1975 - 1980.

The purpose of this thesis is to review our experience with fistulae following total laryngectomy in order to isolate causative factors and suggest preventive measures .

We found that the factors which increase the incidence of pharyngo-cutaneous fistula are :-

1- Preoperative tracheostomy :-

Higher incidence of fistula was noted in the preoperative tracheostomy group (43.2%) than those with no preoperative tracheostomy (28.8%).

2- Preoperative haemoglobin level:-

Preoperative haemoglobin level below 12.5 gm% rises the incidence from 29% to 64.3% .

3- Preoperative irradiation :-

It increases the incidence of fistula from 29.5% in those who recieved no preoperative radiotherapy to 61.5% in those who recieved preoperative radiotherapy