A Study of Correlation between Clinical Features, Radiological and Operative Findings in Safe and Unsafe CSOM

Shreeya V. Kulkarni¹, Monika B. Bhagat²*, K. S. Burse³, Chaitanya Bharadwaj⁴ and Vandana Sancheti⁵

¹Professor, Department of ENT, Dr. Vasantrao Pawar Medical College, Hospital and Research Centre, Adgaon - 422003, Nashik, Maharashtra, India; kshreeya@hotmail.com
²PG Resident, Department of ENT, Dr. Vasantrao Pawar Medical College, Hospital and Research Centre, Adgaon - 422003, Nashik, Maharashtra, India; monikabbhagat@gmail.com
³Professor and Head, Department of ENT, Dr. Vasantrao Pawar Medical College, Hospital and Research Centre, Adgaon - 422003, Nashik, Maharashtra, India; drksburse@gmail.com
⁴Assistant Professor, Department of ENT, Dr. Vasantrao Pawar Medical College, Hospital and Research Centre, Adgaon - 422003, Nashik, Maharashtra, India; drchaitanyab@gmail.com
⁵Senior Resident, Department of ENT, Dr. Vasantrao Pawar Medical College, Hospital and Research Centre, Adgaon - 422003, Nashik, Maharashtra, India; pksancheti@rediffmail.com

Abstract

Background: Chronic Suppurative Otitis Media (CSOM) is one of the most common chronic childhood infections worldwide. People are relatively less aware regarding the complications of this disease and so less effective measures are employed resulting in high rate of complications. Aims: 1. To evaluate the relation of the clinical features with intraoperative findings in CSOM, and 2. To compare the preoperative X-ray/HRCT findings with intraoperative findings in patients with safe and unsafe CSOM with or without complications. Methods and Methodology: A total number of 100 patients of CSOM were included after they satisfied the eligibility criteria. Written informed consent was taken from all the study participants. The standard procedure of examination of ear, nose, throat, oral cavity was carried out on each patient in the outpatient department of the hospital. The detailed history of the patient was as per the proforma. Dry aural toilet was done to remove adherent debris. Otoscopic examination was done and the details were noted. Results and Conclusion: CT scan and X-ray have proved to be valuable diagnostic tools in determining the accuracy with which there was an agreement (correlation) between the clinical features, intraoperative findings and radiological findings in safe and unsafe CSOM. It was determined by the kappa coefficient using SPSS statistical analysis software.

Keywords: Chronic Suppurative Otitis Media, Complications, ENT

1. Introduction

Chronic Suppurative Otitis Media (CSOM) is the chronic inflammation of the middle ear cleft which is composed of Eustachian tube, hypotympanum, mesotympanum, epitympanum, aditus and mastoid air cells which presents with recurrent ear discharge through tympanic membrane perforation². Continuing mucosal infection of the middle ear by resistant organisms, nasopharynx with secondary infection of the middle ear cleft and mucosal changes of

*Author for correspondence
the middle ear secondary to eustachian tube dysfunction may contribute to the development of chronic otitis media. Clinically CSOM is of two types- tubotympanic type (safe) and atticoantral type (unsafe) depending on the likelihood of developing complications, that can be life threatening and may involve the vital structures such as facial nerve, inner ear, and intracranial components.

In a study done by Sandeep and colleagues, intraoperative finding showed around 66% cases with granulation in attic, aditus and antrum. Surprisingly 2% cases had cholesteatoma sac and histopathological finding of the specimens taken showed cholesteatoma in 8% of cases. Similarly, in a Japanese study, 28 of 2948 years with central perforation of the Tympanic membrane had cholesteatoma.

In the past, people were relatively less aware regarding the complications of this disease. In the modern era, frequency of complications is markedly reduced due to aggressive treatment but still in developing countries, the complications are comparatively higher leading to any disability or even death.

2. Material and Methods

A Prospective study was done in the Department of Ear Nose Throat of a Medical College and Tertiary Health care centre for 2 Years from August 2015 to August 2017 in a sample Size of 100 Patients.

- Eligibility Criteria:
- Inclusion Criteria:
  - patients with tubotympanic type of CSOM.
  - patients with atticoantral type of CSOM.
  - patients with complications of CSOM.
- Exclusion Criteria:
  - suspicion of ear pathology to be malignant.
  - congenitally ear disease.
  - patients unfit for ear surgery.
  - old operated ear cases.

| Table 1. Agreement (Correlation) between otoscopic findings and surgical findings |
|-----------------------------------------------|
| Type of Perforation | Clinical findings | Surgical finding |
|                   | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage |
| Anterosuperior     | 4      | 4 %        | 4      | 4 %        |
| Anteroinferior     | 7      | 7 %        | 7      | 7 %        |
| Posterosuperior    | 3      | 3 %        | 3      | 3 %        |
| Posteroanterior     | 4      | 4 %        | 4      | 4 %        |
| Central            | 9      | 9 %        | 9      | 9 %        |
| Marginal           | 1      | 1 %        | 1      | 1 %        |
| Anterior           | 5      | 5 %        | 5      | 5 %        |
| Posterior          | 3      | 3 %        | 3      | 3 %        |
| Subtotal           | 4      | 4 %        | 3      | 3 %        |
| Size of Perforation|        |            |        |            |
| Small              | 21     | 21 %       | 21     | 21 %       |
| Medium             | 14     | 14 %       | 15     | 15 %       |
| Large              | 5      | 5 %        | 3      | 3 %        |
| Cholesteatoma      |        |            |        |            |
| Attic Cholesteatoma| 53     | 53 %       | 54     | 54 %       |
| Posteroanterior Chol.| 06 | 06 %       | 05     | 05 %       |
| Granulation tissue | 02     | 02 %       | 01     | 01 %       |
| Both               | 18     | 18 %       | 19     | 19 %       |
| Polyp              | 06     | 06 %       | 06     | 06 %       |
3. Methodology

The standard procedure of examination of ear, nose, throat, oral cavity was carried out on 100 patients in the outpatient department of the hospital after they satisfied the eligibility criteria. Written informed consent was obtained from all the study participants. The detailed history of the patient was taken as per the proforma.

Table 2. Sensitivity and specificity of otoscopy in diagnosis of disease of ear among CSOM study subjects (correlation between otoscopic findings and surgical findings)

| Pathology seen on surgery | Otoscopic findings | Sensitivity | Specificity |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Perforation               | 39                 | 40          | 100%        | 97.5%       |
| Cholesteatoma             | 59                 | 59          | 100%        | 100%        |
| Granulation tissue        | 01                 | 02          | 100%        | 50%         |
| Both                      | 19                 | 18          | 94.7%       | 100%        |
| Polyp                     | 06                 | 06          | 100%        | 100%        |
| Chi Square Value          | 0.369              |             |             |             |
| Significance ‘p’ Value    | 0.985(NS)          |             |             |             |

Table 3. Agreement (correlation) between radiological findings and surgical findings

| Finding                  | Radiological finding(N=59) | Surgical findings (N=59) |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
|                          | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage |
| Malleus Head             | 13     | 22.03%     | 13     | 22.03%     |
| Malleus Handle           | 03     | 5.08%      | 03     | 5.08%      |
| Malleus                  | 03     | 5.08%      | 03     | 5.08%      |
| Incus Body               | 24     | 40.67%     | 24     | 40.67%     |
| Incus Long Process       | 16     | 27.11%     | 16     | 27.11%     |
| Incus                    | 14     | 23.72%     | 14     | 23.72%     |
| Stapes Suprastructure    | 32     | 54.23%     | 34     | 57.6%      |
| Stapes footplate         | 0      | 0.0%       | 01     | 1.69%      |
| Sinus Plate              | 2      | 3.38%      | 2      | 3.38%      |
| Dural plate              | 2      | 3.38%      | 2      | 3.38%      |
| Mesotympanum             | 33     | 55.9%      | 33     | 55.9%      |
| Posterior tympanum       | 40     | 67.8%      | 40     | 67.8%      |
| Epitympanum              | 55     | 93.22%     | 55     | 93.22%     |
| Pfistula                 | 5      | 8.47%      | 5      | 8.47%      |
| Hypotympanum             | 29     | 49.15%     | 29     | 49.15%     |
| Antrum                   | 53     | 89.8%      | 55     | 93.2%      |
| Aditus                   | 43     | 72.8%      | 46     | 77.9%      |
| Mastoid Tip              | 44     | 74.5%      | 44     | 74.5%      |
| Fascial Dehiscent        | 3      | 5.08%      | 0      | 5.08%      |
Dry aural toilet was done daily to remove adherent debris. Otoscopic examination was done. Septic foci in the nose and throat were tackled prior to ear surgery. Correlation of the CT scan and surgical findings for bone erosion was determined by the kappa coefficient and the data collected was analysed using statistical software.

4. Observations and Results

Table 1 reveals Agreement (Correlation) between Otoscopic findings and Surgical findings. By Otoscopic examination in 40 cases perforation found while by surgical exploration 39 cases had perforation. Agreement was good. In Otoscopy 14 & 5 cases had medium and large perforation while on surgical exploration, 15 had medium and 3 had large size perforation. Attic and Posterosuperior Cholesteatoma were found in 53 & 6 cases by otoscopy while on surgical exploration, it was 54 & 5 respectively. Granulation tissue was seen only in one case during surgery. Polyp was seen in 6 % cases by both.

Table 2 reveals Sensitivity and Specificity of Otoscopy in diagnosis of disease of ear among CSOM study.

Table 4. Sensitivity and specificity of HRCT temporal in diagnosis of erosion of ossicles among CSOM study subjects (correlation between radiological findings and surgical findings)

| Finding               | Radiological finding (N=59) | Surgical findings (N=59) | Sensitivity | Specificity |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Malleus Head          | 13                         | 13                       | 100%        | 100%        |
| Malleus Handle        | 03                         | 03                       | 100%        | 100%        |
| Malleus               | 03                         | 03                       | 100%        | 100%        |
| Incus Body            | 24                         | 24                       | 100%        | 100%        |
| Incus Long Process    | 16                         | 16                       | 100%        | 100%        |
| Incus                 | 14                         | 14                       | 100%        | 100%        |
| Stapes Suprastructure | 32                         | 34                       | 94%         | 100%        |
| Chi Square Value      | 1.02                       |                          |             |             |
| p-Value               | 0.995 (Not Significant)    |                          |             |             |

Table 5. Correlation between radiological findings and surgical findings (Disease extentation in Middle Ear)

| Finding        | Radiological finding (N=59) | Surgical findings (N=59) | Sensitivity | Specificity |
|----------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Sinus Plate    | 2                          | 2                        | 100 %       | 100%        |
| Dural plate    | 2                          | 2                        | 100 %       | 100%        |
| Mesotympanum   | 33                         | 33                       | 100 %       | 100%        |
| Posterior tympanum | 40                  | 40                       | 100 %       | 100%        |
| Epitympanum    | 55                         | 55                       | 100 %       | 100%        |
| Pflistula      | 5                          | 5                        | 100 %       | 100%        |
| Hygotympanum   | 29                         | 29                       | 100 %       | 100%        |
| Antrum         | 53                         | 55                       | 96.4%       | 100%        |
| Aditus         | 43                         | 46                       | 93.4%       | 100%        |
| Mastoid Tip    | 44                         | 44                       | 100 %       | 100%        |
| Chi Square Value| 3.13                       |                          |             |             |
| Significance p-Value | 0.926(NS)             |                          |             |             |
subjects (Correlation between Otoscopic findings and Surgical findings). ROC Curve analysis was done to find out sensitivity and specificity. Otoscopy diagnosed Cholesteatoma and polyp with 100% Sensitivity and 100% Specificity. Perforation was diagnosed by otoscopy with 100% Sensitivity and 97.5% Specificity. Otoscopy diagnosed Granulation tissue with 100% Sensitivity and 50.0% Specificity. Cholesteatoma with granulation tissue was diagnosed by otoscopy with 94.7% Sensitivity and 100% Specificity. Chi square analysis was also done to find association between HRCT temporal and surgical findings. It shows there is no significant difference in finding of both ($p=0.995$).

Table 3 reveals Agreement (Correlation) between Radiological findings and Surgical findings. Among most of the findings, good agreement was seen. Stapes Suprastructure was seen in 32 cases by HRCT while on surgical exploration it was seen on 34 cases. Stapes foot plate was not seen by HRCT while it was seen in one case on surgical exploration. Antrum and aditus was seen in 53 and 43 cases by HRCT while on surgical exploration it was seen in 55 & 46 cases respectively. Fascial Dehiscent was not seen on surgical exploration which was diagnosed in 3 cases by HRCT.

Table 4 and Figure 1 reveal Sensitivity and Specificity of HRCT Temporal in diagnosis of erosion of ossicles among CSOM study subjects. It was done by ROC curve analysis. CT diagnoses accurately Malleus, handle of malleus, head of malleus, Incus body, incus process and incus with 100% sensitivity and specificity. It diagnoses erosion of Stapes Suprastructure with 94% sensitivity and 100% specificity. CT shows inconsistent visualization of stapes foot plate in our study and cannot detect erosive changes of stapes foot plate. Chi square analysis was also done to find association between HRCT temporal and surgical findings. It shows there is no significant difference in finding of both ($p=0.995$).

Table 5 and Figure 2 reveal Sensitivity and Specificity of HRCT Temporal in diagnosis of extension of disease in middle ear among CSOM study subjects. It was done by ROC curve analysis. CT diagnoses accurately Mesotympanum, Posterior tympanum, Epitympanum and hypotympanum with 100% sensitivity and 100% specificity. It diagnoses Antrum with 96.4% sensitivity and 100% specificity and it diagnose Aditus with 93.4% sensitivity and 100 specificity. Chi square analysis was also done to find association between HRCT temporal and surgical findings. It shows there is no significant difference in finding of both ($p=0.926$).

![Figure 2. Correlation between radiological findings and surgical findings (Disease extention in Middle Ear).](image)

5. Discussion

A total of 100 cases were studied. Majority of patients had ototorhea and decreased hearing as predominant symptoms and having otoscopic diagnosis of disease in pars tensa region, posterosuperior and attic region, requiring mastoid exploration and tympanoplasty, were treated in ENT Department of our hospital within the period of 3 year.

Joselito L. Gaurano MD, Ismail A Joharjiy, MD conducted retrospective review of CT scan and surgical and histopathological reports in 64 patients with middle ear cholesteatoma. CT scans were evaluated for presence of intra tympanic non dependent soft tissue density, extent of middle ear involvement, bone expansion and thinning and bone erosion involving ossicles and adjacent structure.
Another study carried out at PGI Chandigarh “Study of Clinico Pathological and Radiological Spectrum of Cholesteatoma in Children and Correlation of Computerized Tomographic Findings with Surgical Findings” by Dr. Prahalada N.B. This study consisted of 25 children below 14 years of chronic, suppurative, otitis media of unsafe type requiring mastoid exploration, admitted with the Otolaryngology services of the Nehru Hospital, PGIMER, Chandigarh. Both these studies are comparable with our study.

In our study, on CT scan aditus and antrum was the commonest site of involvement by disease in 72% and 89% respectively. Same results were obtained in PGI study (84%, 88%) and Joselito Study (67%, 85%). In our study, malleus and incus body were erosed in 42.3% and 47.4%, stapes superstructure was erosed in 61.01% cases. While joselito found stapes to be eroded in 65.62% on HRCT and malleous and incus in 40% and 75%. In both studies bone erosion was seen in more patients compared to our study because they studied only cases with cholesteatoma.

In our study, on surgical exploration disease was present, in aditus in 48% and in antrum in 57%. Stapes superstructure was the most common ossicle to be eroded followed by incus body and malleus. PGI study shows incus to be eroded in 68% followed by malleus 64% and stapes (24%). More cases with ossicular erosion were seen per operatively as they studied only cases with cholesteatoma.

CT scan was 100% sensitive and specific for epitympanum and 100% sensitive and specific for antrum. These results are in consonance with PGI study with 95% sensitivity, 100% specificity for epitympanum and 95% sensitivity, 66% specificity for antrum.

In our study CT scan was 100% sensitive and specific in identifying erosion of malleous while 100% sensitive and 100% specific for erosion of incus. Stapes shows inconsistent visualization in both our study and PGI study. However joselito find agreement of 92% of cases of stapes erosion with CT scan.

Cases of brain abcess were with 100% agreement in both our study and joselito study. Sensitivity and Specificity of HRCT Temporal in diagnosis of extension of disease in middle ear among CSOM study subjects. It was done by ROC curve analysis. CT diagnoses accurately Mesotympanum, Posterior tympanum, Epitympanum and hypotympanum with 100% sensitivity and 100% specificity. It diagnoses Antrum with 96.4% sensitivity and 100 specificity, and it diagnose Aditus with 93.4% sensitivity and 100 specificity. Chi square analysis was also done to find association between HRCT temporal and surgical findings. It shows there is no significant difference in finding of both (P value = 0.926).

Sensitivity and Specificity of HRCT Temporal in diagnosis of erosion of ossicles among CSOM study subjects. It was done by ROC curve analysis. CT diagnoses accurately erosion of Malleus, handle of malleus, head of malleus, Incus body, incus process and incus with 100% sensitivity and specificity. It diagnoses erosion of Stapes Suprastructure with 94% sensitivity and 100% specificity. CT shows inconsistent visualization of stapes foot plate in our study and cannot detect erosive changes of stapes foot plate. Chi square analysis was also done to find association between HRCT temporal and surgical findings. It shows there is no significant difference in finding of both (P value = 0.995).

Tegmen tympani - overlying the epitympanum and antrum, tegmen is thin bony roof that is clearly visualized on coronal sections. In 2 patients tegmen was completely erosed and showing temporal lobe abscess in CT scan. During operation it was in complete agreement with CT scan.

Sinus tympani-in 2 patient’s sinus plate was erosed with mastoid abcess and cerebellar extension same thing was observed during surgery.

6. Conclusion

- Most of patients with CSOM unsafe having disease in attic region presents with chief complains of decreased hearing (80%) followed by decrease hearing (60%).
- CSOM is more common in third decades with more incidence in females (1.5 times).
- Otosopy and confirmation by microscopy is to clinical diagnosis of disease in attic region.
- Attic Cholesteatoma is most common finding (53%) followed by PSQ Cholesteatoma (6%) followed by cholesteatoma with granulation tissue (18%) and granulation tissue (2%).
- Most of patients presents with (86%) conductive hearing loss suggesting bone (ossicular) erosive property of disease.
- On HRCT epitympanum, aditus and antrum was the commnest site of involvemeny by disease in 93%, 72.8% and 89% respectively.
• CT scan is 100% sensitive in diagnosing disease in epitympanum and 96.4% sensitive in antrum and 93.4% in aditus.
• The HRCT found to be very sensitive (96%) in diagnosing cholesteatoma accurately. However, HRCT could not differentiate cholesteatoma from granulation.
• Role of HRCT early in the course of disease can potentially reduce the risk of late complications associated with under diagnosed cholesteatoma. Therefore, HRCT is the method of choice for examination of middle ear structure and pathology in unsafe otitis media.
• CT scan is 100% sensitive and specific in identifying erosion of malleous while 100% sensitive and 100% specific in identification of erosion of incus. Stapes shows inconsistent visualization.
• On surgical exploration cholesteatoma or granulation tissue or both are the commonest surgical finding (78%).
• On surgical exploration Attic aditus and antrum (key area) is the commonest site of involvement.

7. References

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