

THE JOURNAL OF THE IRISH HEAD AND NECK SOCIETY

Title: Abstract: Case Series of Carotid Body Tumours a Single Centre Experience

Body: Background

Carotid body tumors (CBTs) are rare, highly vascular neoplasms located at the bifurcation of the common carotid artery. Surgical excision is the primary treatment, but tumor characteristics and surrounding anatomy dictate the approach. This case series reviews the clinical presentation, management, and outcomes of CBTs treated by a single surgeon.

Methods

A retrospective review of 11 patients (5 males, 6 females; average age 52 years) diagnosed with CBTs and treated surgically by a single surgeon at a tertiary center was conducted. This included 8 carotid body paragangliomas and 3 carotid space vagal paragangliomas. Clinical presentation, preoperative imaging, Shamblin score, surgical approach, and postoperative outcomes were assessed.

Results

The most common symptoms were palpable neck mass (73%) and dysphagia (9%). Preoperative imaging (ultrasound, CT angiography, MRI) was used to assess tumor size and vascularity. All patients underwent surgical excision, with carotid artery ligation and revascularization performed when necessary. There were no malignancies, and postoperative complications included transient neurological deficits (18%) and First Bite Syndrome (9%). No recurrences were observed during follow-up.

Conclusion

Surgical excision of CBTs yields favorable outcomes with a low complication rate. Thorough preoperative evaluation and an individualized surgical approach are essential for optimizing patient prognosis.

Authors: Dr Nikita Naqvi (1), Professor Patrick Sheahan (1)

Affiliations: Department of Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery, South Infirmity-Victoria University Hospital, Cork