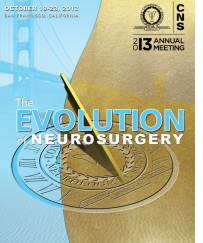


Cost Effectiveness and Treatment Options for Trigeminal Neuralgia

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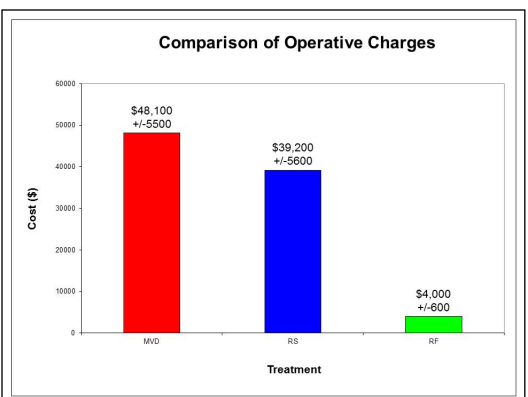


Introduction

A retrospective review of patients with trigeminal neuralgia, treated with 3 modalities: Radiofrequency (RF), neurovascular decompression (MVD), and radiosurgery (RS).

Methods

Retrospective review of 143 patients treated with RF, MVD, or RS for control of trigeminal neuralgia.



Results

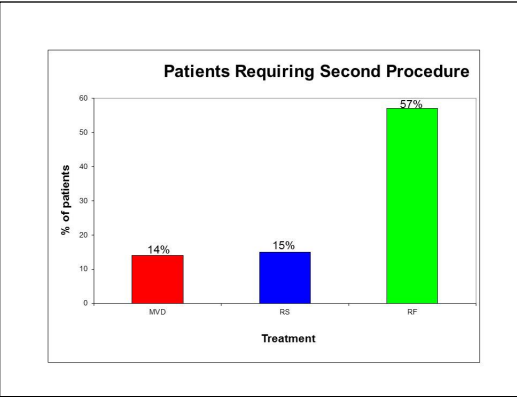
Thirty patients were treated with RF. Seventeen (57%) required a second procedure. Of the RF patients who did not need a second procedure, all have had excellent short term relief. Nine of the remaining 13 patients (69%) have suffered from facial numbness related to the procedure, and a quarter (4/13 or 31%) are still on medication. Total Hospital fees for the RF were (mean+/- SD) \$4000+/- 600.

Of the 42 treated with MVD, 6 pts have required a second procedure (14%). Over 90% of the rest (33/36 or 92%) are pain free. Six of the remaining patients (17%) have facial numbness, and only 22% are on medication. Total hospital fees for MVD were \$48100 +/- 5500.

Of the 71 treated with SRS, 11 (15%) have recurred necessitating a second procedure. Of the remaining 60 patients, 52(87%) are pain free, 11 (18%) have facial numbness, and 28 (47%) are still on medication. Total hospital fees for the SRS were \$39200 +/- 5600.

Conclusions

Of the 3 types of remedies, RF though the most economical, produces only short term relief with over half of the patients ultimately requiring a second procedure. Though SRS is associated with excellent pain relief, over one third are still on medication. MVD is the best choice of treatment in patients without a risk factor, and is least likely to require a subsequent procedure



Learning Objectives

The intent is to compare results in terms of the need for one or more secondary procedures, pain relief, associated numbness, continued medication, and cost.

