Post-operative Hemorrhage in Head and Neck Surgery

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We performed a retrospective review of 1265 surgical procedures performed at our department between January 2007 and December 2011. We identified 20 patients with post-operative hemorrhage in head and neck surgery. The procedure most often complicated by wound bleeding was parotidectomy (6.5%), followed by laryngectomy (3.9%). Symptoms of hemorrhage was observed within 12 hours in 85% of the patients. However, delayed hemorrhage, more than 24 hours after the operations, was found in two cases. In our study, two cases of laryngeal edema were found after re-operation, with tracheostomy necessitated in one case.

Careful hemostasis and early recognition with immediate intervention are required to prevent severe complications after head and neck surgery.

Keywords: post-operative hemorrhage, head and neck surgery, parotidectomy

References