Ethanol Sclerotherapy for the Intractable Epistaxis

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Hereditary hemorrhagic telangiectasia (HHT), also known as Osler-Weber-Rendu disease, is an autosomal dominant disease that is characterized by repetitive nasal bleeding with familial occurrence, and is frequently associated with difficulty in treating the nasal bleeding. We treated cases of refractory nasal bleeding, consisting of 4 cases of hereditary hemorrhagic telangiectasia and one case of renal cell carcinoma, metastasized to the paranasal sinus, on an out-patient basis with local injection of the esophageal varices sclerosing agent, polidocanol. Following injection sclerotherapy in all five cases, the frequency of nasal bleeding decreased. Since this procedure was able to be performed on an out-patient basis without requiring hospitalization, it was useful in improving patient QOL.

Keywords : hereditary hemorrhagic telangiectasia, nasal bleeding, polidocanol

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a Before the sclerotherapy

b Five month after the sclerotherapy

Intranasal findings of Case 1.

a: Polidocanol was submucosally injected at the points indicated by stars (0.5–1.0 ml each)

b: The mucosa of the treated area has turned pale.

The change of the score for epistaxis (according to Al-Deen et al. ²⁾) in hereditary haemorrhagic telangiectasia