Quality of life following External Dacryocystorhinostomy: Impact of secondary sequalae

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Introduction

Dacryocystorhinostomy (DCR) is a surgical procedure to improve tear drainage in the presence of nasolacrimal duct obstruction. The gold standard for surgical intervention is external DCR. Complications following surgery, may include bleeding and bruising, infection, and scar formation. This study investigates several aspects of quality of life following DCR surgery including the impact of some secondary sequelae, other than resolution of epiphora.

Methods

146 patients were identified, who underwent DCR, by a single surgeon from 2013-2019.
100 patients consented to participate in the study. Specific criteria were set for scar scoring and satisfaction scoring systems (*Table 1*). Information regarding patient self-scoring of scar and side effect profile were gathered via a telephone administered questionnaire.

Results

100 patients were included in the study, age range of 33-90 years; 47 males and 53 females. 70 patients reported scars that were not visible (score 1), a further 21 reported scars that were very slightly visible (score 2) and 3 patients (all Caucasians) felt the scars were visible (score 5). Symptoms reported on questioning included 18 patients with nasal indentation, 15 with nasal tenderness and 45 patients with air reflux symptoms (*Figure 1*). 19 patients reported persistent epiphora, 7 of these patients provided an overall satisfaction rating of 3. Of the total cohort, 81% gave a high satisfaction rating of 4 or 5.

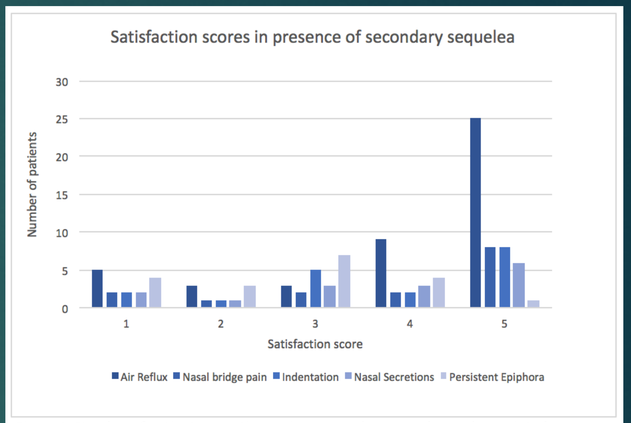


Figure 1. Number of patients reporting various secondary sequelae and associated satisfaction scores for each group

Scar Rating	Meaning	Satisfaction rating	Meanings
1	Not visible	1	Not satisfied
2	Slightly visible	2	Slightly satisfied
3	Somewhat visible	3	Somewhat satisfied
4	Fairly visible	4	Fairly satisfied
5	Visible	5	Satisfied

Table 1. Scoring systems for scar rating and satisfaction rating

Race	Scar rating >3	Scar blending well	Scar thickening	Satisfaction score <3
Caucasian	7	74	11	11
Asian	2	10	3	1
Black	0	1	0	0

Table 2. Number of patients representing various scar features in Caucasian, Asian and Black races

Conclusions

The study indicated that there was no impact of scarring on overall satisfaction rating. Late secondary postoperative sequelae are relatively common, but are not often reported within patient or medical literature, as they do not impact quality of life or satisfaction. Recurrence or persistent epiphora seems the predominant reasons for low patient satisfaction.