

Experience with Cortical Tunnel Fixation In Endoscopic Brow Lift - Carrier Loop Modification

Endoskopik Kaş Kaldırma Ameliyatındaki Tecrübelerimiz -Taşıyıcı İlmek Modifikasyonu

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Öz

Endoskopik kaş kaldırma ameliyatının geleneksel yöntemlere kıyasla ameliyat sahasının daha iyi görülmesi, daha kısa yara izleri, alopesi riskinin ve kafa derisi duyuşal deęişikliklerinin daha az olması gibi birçok avantajı vardır. Kaş kaldırma ameliyatlarında doğru diseksiyon teknięi, yumuşak doku bağlantılarının etkili bir şekilde gevşetilmesi ve alın flebinin etkin bir şekilde sabitlenmesi ameliyat sonucunda önemli rol oynar. Bu yazıda, fiksasyon amacı ile kortikal kemikte açılan dar tünelden, kalın, ağırlık taşıyan sütürlerin taşıyıcı ilmek ile kolayca geçirilmesine olanak sağlayan kortikal fiksasyon teknięinin bir modifikasyonunu tanımlıyoruz.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Endoskopik kaş kaldırma, kortikal fiksasyon, taşıyıcı ilmek

Abstract

The endoscopic approach for brow lifting has many advantages such as better exposure of the operative field, shorter scars, reduced risk of alopecia and scalp sensory changes. Correct dissection technique, release of the soft tissue attachments and efficient fixation of the forehead flap play an important role in the outcome of the procedure. In this paper, we describe a modification of cortical tunnel fixation technique, which allows delivering thick, weight-bearing sutures easily from the tight cortical tunnel.

Key words: Endoscopic brow lift, cortical tunnel fixation, carrier technique

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INTRODUCTION

The endoscopic technique is still one of the most commonly performed brow lift methods in forehead rejuvenation. It has certain advantages as better exposure, shorter scars, reduced risk of alopecia and scalp sensory changes compared to traditional methods (1). Although proper dissection and release plays an important role in outcome, efficient fixation can not be underestimated. In literature, various fixation methods have been described including Endotine device (Coapt Systems, Inc, Palo Alto, CA), Mitek anchor sutures (Mitek Surgical Products, Westwood, Mass.), screws, plates, etc (1,2). However, many surgeons still prefer the cortical tunnel fixation technique due to its low cost and reproducibility (3) although proper tunneling may be cumbersome (1). In this paper, we report our modification to deliver thick, weight bearing sutures from cortical tunnel with the help of conductive sutures to pave the way and save time.

Operative Technique

Two 1.5 mm long paramedian incisions are made corresponding with the highest desired point of the eye brow, approximately 2 cm posterior to the hairline. After subperiosteal dissection, two initially



Figure 1. 5/0 round, double armed, 13 mm needled polypropylene suture is passed through the tunnel as a carrier by leaving a loop on the cranial side. White arrow; cortical tunnel, black arrow; the carrier loop.

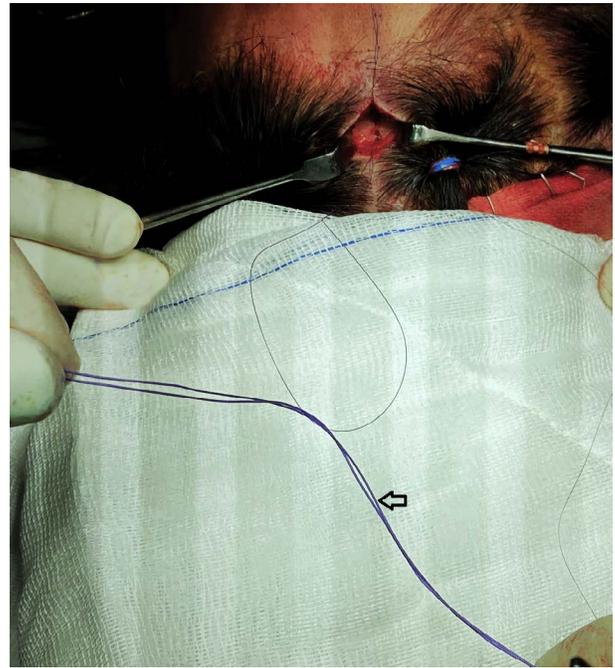


Figure 2. Black arrow; 2/0 polyglactin sutures that are introduced to the carrier loop.

perpendicular holes with 2 mm depth and 4 mm intervals are placed either vertically or horizontally on each side of the head. Later, the drill is angled approximately 60 degrees to enable the suture to pass. The connection is verified with the help of a syringe by pouring saline through the holes. Since it is difficult to pass thick needled sutures 2/0 polyglactin, 2/0 polyester etc., (2/0 VICRYL polyglactin 40 mm round sutures (Ethicon, Somerville, NJ) in this case), a 5/0 round, double armed, 13 mm needled polypropylene suture is delivered through the tunnel as a carrier by leaving a loop on the cranial side (figure 1). Then the loop is loaded with 2/0 Vicryl (figure 2). Depending on surgeon's choice, two strands of 2/0 polyglactin sutures are passed through the tunnel by pulling the loop. With this manoeuvre, we deliver the thick polyester sutures easily with the help of the carrier loop (video). Finally, sutures are passed from the forehead flap and fixation is achieved by anchoring in cortical bone tunnel.

In endoscopic brow lift, cortical fixation is one of the most essential steps in the positioning of the eyebrows. Among fixation methods, cortical tunnel fixation is still one of the most simple and cost-effective method.

[Video. Delivering the thick polyglactin sutures easily from narrow cortical tunnel with the help of the carrier loop.](#)

With the 'carrier loop modification' we described a method, that overcomes the most challenging step of the cortical fixation which is passing weight bearing, thick sutures from the cortical tunnel.

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