An endoscopic assisted retrosigmoid approach to the cerebello-pontine angle for resection of an epidermoid cyst

MINA G. SAFAIN, M.D., WALTER C. DENT, M.S., AND CARL B. HEILMAN, M.D.

Department of Neurosurgery, Tufts Medical Center and Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston, Massachusetts

Epidermoid cysts are rare lesions accounting for 1% of intracranial tumors with approximately 50% located within the cerebello-pontine angle (CPA). Resection is complicated by their close anatomical relation to critical neurovascular structures and their tendency to be densely adherent making complete removal a significant neurosurgical challenge. We present a 35-year-old woman with left sided tongue numbness and lower lip paresthesias with a CPA epidermoid. An endoscopic assisted retrosigmoid approach was utilized for resection. A 30-degree endoscope was used to assist in removal of unseen tumor in Meckel’s cave, medial to the lower cranial nerves, and along the ventral pons.

The video can be found here: http://youtu.be/bv0lMPbX7BY.

KEY WORDS • cerebello-pontine angle • endoscopic • epidermoid cyst • retrosigmoid • video