EDITORIAL COMMENT

Quality of life following acoustic neuroma surgery

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In recent years, quality-of-life (QOL) issues for patients who have undergone neurosurgical procedures have become increasingly important in assessing patient outcomes. With improvements in neuroimaging, neuromonitoring, intraoperative techniques, and postoperative management, many patients now expect an excellent outcome. In no other discipline of neurosurgery has this been more apparent than acoustic neuroma surgery.

Unfortunately, relatively little attention has been paid to formally evaluating QOL after microsurgery for acoustic tumors. In this excellent paper, the authors provided QOL data for patients with tumors of all sizes, surgically treated using both the retrosigmoid and translabyrinthine approaches. Their findings are quite important in that even patients with small tumors have postoperative deficits that can significantly impact day to day living.

We hope this study provides a springboard for future studies of other complex lesions of the central nervous system.

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