A SIMPLIFIED OPEN GASTROSTOMY WITH LOCAL ANESTHESIA

An increasing demand for nutritional supplementation in patients with neurologic disorders, such as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, has prompted us to revise the standard gastrostomy. Such patients have various respiratory problems which include aspiration and general anesthesia. Even straining sessions are not tolerated. Uncuffed nasogastric intubation is a simplified version of the stoma technique which required a relatively large incision and general anesthesia. In over 25 patients when we used local anesthesia (1% xylocaine) and 7.5 cm endogastrostomy, there were no complications or recurrence of the stomach. A purse string suture of 2-0 silk placed about a small subcutaneous pocket was performed. The tube was secured with the purse string suture and exteriorized through the incision and abdominal wall just lateral to the incision which is closed with 2-0 Vicryl sutures.

The minimum incision is small which provides the need for further studies between stomach and abdominal wall. After an overnight stay the stoma is verified with radiology using soluble contrast at the bedside. It is then ready for use.

We have not had a tube leak internally or externally since adopting this technique ten years ago.

SOUTH

MEDICARE MANAGED CARE AT HEALTH CARE NEEDS: NODRA

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Purpose: States are encouraged to manage care on a delivery system. This study explores the impact of Medicare Managed Care Plans on health care use and cost.

Methods:

1. Medicaid beneficiaries in the study area were stratified by age, gender, and health status.
2. Patients were compared for clinical outcomes.
3. Patients were compared for access to care.
4. Patients were compared for satisfaction.

Results: The study found that Medicare Managed Care Plans had a positive impact on health care use and cost. Patients reported increased access to care and higher satisfaction with their care. The study also found that there was a reduction in hospital admissions and a decrease in overall health care costs.

CONCLUSIONS: Medicare Managed Care Plans are effective in managing health care costs and improving patient satisfaction. Further research is needed to determine the long-term impact of these plans on health outcomes.