Repositioning of the vertebral artery as treatment for neurovascular ...

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DOI: 10.3171/jns.1997.86.4.8728

Neurovascular compression syndromes are usually treated by interposing Teflon felt or pudding or some other implant between the offending vessel and the nerve. However, this cannot be done in some cases in which ecstatic verteobasilar arteries are involved. In these instances, alternative techniques must be used.

The authors report the use of a sling made of Prolene to reposition the vertebral artery in two patients with neurovascular compression disorder. The clinical results were gratifying, with complete resolution of the patients' symptoms.

Compression by large vessels is an uncommon but important source of neurovascular compression in patients with trigeminal neuralgia, hemifacial spasm, disabling positional vertigo, and, possibly, hypertension. The technique described may be useful to surgeons treating these problems.

KEY WORDS • facial nerve • hemifacial spasm • vestibulococlear nerve • disabling positional vertigo • neurovascular compression syndrome • neurovascular decompression

Cited by


Online publication date: 1-May-2007.

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