Estudio número 8

Perforaciones traumáticas de la membrana timpánica diagnosticadas en urgencias.

Las perforaciones de la membrana timpánica son frecuentes y suelen requerir valoración en Atención Primaria y otorrinolaringología, o en los servicios de Urgencias.

Pese a que las etiquetas de los envases de los bastoncillos de algodón advierten con respecto al riesgo de lesiones en el conducto auditivo externo, estos productos se utilizan comúnmente para eliminar el cerumen del oído.

Este estudio, realizado mediante un análisis trasversal de casos de 100 servicios de Urgencias de los EE.UU., busca analizar el mecanismo de lesión en las perforaciones traumáticas de pacientes que acudieron a dichos servicios. Se realizaron búsquedas en bases de datos, de pacientes que acudieron por lesiones relacionadas con el oído con información analítica sobre la edad, sexo del paciente, hora y fecha de la lesión, diagnósticos de lesiones específicas y mecanismos de las mismas ocurridos a lo largo de 5 años, desde 1 de enero de 2010 hasta el 31 de diciembre de 2014. Resultados: hubo 949 entradas de casos en la base de datos para perforaciones timpánicas traumáticas. De los 949 pacientes evaluados, 59.8% eran hombres y 40.2% eran mujeres, resultando en una proporción de hombres a mujeres de 1.49:1. La mayoría de las lesiones ocurrieron en pacientes de 18 años o menos (63.4%), con niños menores de 6 años con mayor riesgo (34.9%). La introducción de cuerpos extraños representó la causa principal de perforación traumática en pacientes de 0 a 5 años (85.8%), de 6 a 12 años (68.4%), de 19 a 36 años 38 (1%), 37 a 54 años (52.7%) y 55 años o más (66.7%); por su parte, el traumatismo acuático fue la causa principal de perforación en pacientes de 13 a 18 años.

A pesar de las advertencias habituales con respecto al riesgo de lesión de la membrana timpánica con el uso bastoncillos de algodón, sigue siendo una causa importante de perforación timpánica traumática. Otros mecanismos de lesiones también tienen un papel importante en las poblaciones de adolescentes y adultos jóvenes.

Traumatic Tympanic Membrane Perforations Diagnosed in Emergency Departments.

Importance: Tympanic membrane perforations (TMPs) are frequent events leading to evaluation in the primary care and otolaryngology offices or the emergency department (ED). Despite specific warning labels on packaging of cotton-tipped applicators regarding the risk of injury to the ear canal with personal use, these products are commonly used to remove ear cerumen.
Objective: To analyze the mechanism of injury for traumatic TMPs among patients presenting to the ED.
Design, setting and participants: Cross-sectional analysis of cases from 100 emergency departments in the United States. The National Electronic Injury Surveillance System was searched on April 3, 2015, for ear-related injuries with analysis information regarding patient age, patient sex, time and date of injury, specific injury diagnoses, and specific injury mechanisms that occurred across 5 years, from January 1, 2010, through December 31, 2014.
Main outcomes and measures: Diagnoses of traumatic TMP documented in the ED visit record as well as patient demographics, diagnoses, and other aspects of the injury, including mechanism of injury.
Results: There were 949 case entries in the database for traumatic TMP, which extrapolates to 4852 ED visits nationally. Of 949 patients evaluated, 568 (59.8%) were men and 381 (40.2%) were women resulting in a male to female ratio of 1.49:1. Most injuries occurred in patients 18 years or younger (602 of 949 [63.4%]) with children younger than 6 years most at risk (331 of 949 [34.9%]). Ear canal instrumentation including foreign bodies was noted in 581 of 949 cases (61.2%), with cotton-tipped applicators noted in 261 (44.9%) of these cases. While foreign body instrumentation represented the leading cause of traumatic TMP in patients aged 0 to 5 years (284 of 331 cases [85.8%]), 6 to 12 years (108 of 158 [68.4%]), 19 to 36 years (85 of 223 [38.1%]), 37 to 54 years (48 of 91 [52.7%]), and 55 years or older (22 of 33 [66.7%]), water trauma was the leading cause of TMP in patients aged 13 to 18 years (43 of 113 cases [38.1%]).
Conclusions and relevance: Traumatic TMP represents a common reason for evaluation in the ED. Despite common warnings regarding risk of injury to the tympanic membrane with use of a cotton-tipped applicator, it is still a major cause of traumatic TMPs. Other injury mechanisms also play an important role in the teenage and young adult populations.

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