

SUMMARY

Epiphora is the imperfect drainage of tears through the lacrimal passages. It is a universal symptom of the lacrimal drainage system disorders. The balance between tear secretion and elimination is essential to keep an optically uniform surface of the cornea. In addition, presence of an obstruction within the nasolacrimal drainage system often predispose to infection which may endanger the eye.

This study was carried out on two hundred fifty eyes of one hundred eighty two patients complaining of obstructive epiphora in the period from August 1984 to March 1988.

The diagnosis of these cases depend upon general ophthalmological examination, examination of the eye lids and puncti, the lacrimal gland, palpation of the medial canthal region and performing the regurge test. Basic secretion test, Jones (1) and dye disappearance, Jones (2) and diagnostic syringing, diagnostic probing and nasal examination were also performed.

Bacteriological examination was performed to one hundred thirty three eyes. Dacryocystography was performed to eighteen cases, six of which preoperative and twelve postoperative.

Patients complaining of epiphora due to lid and nasal disorders were excluded from the study.

Patients were classified into two main groups:

- 1- Congenital and early acquired group up to the age of ten years of life. It included one hundred ninty four eyes of one hundred thirty four patients.
- 2- The acquired group included fourty eight patients with fifty six eyes affected.

The treatment of our cases depent upon the age of the patient, the site and extent of the obstruction, previous procedure done to the patient and the nasal condition.

In patients below three months of life, we started with conservative treatment and massage of the lacrimal sac up to six weeks. Failed cases were subjected to probing. Patients above three months up to ten years old of life were subjected to probing.

In acquired cases we performed dacryocystectomy for eleven eyes suffering from chronic dacryocystitis with gross nasal or canalicular disorders.

Thirty five dacryocystorhinostomies were performed by three main techniques: Dupuy-Dutemps, Traquair, and Traquair with silastic intubation. Only one case was performed by Toti technique.

Conjunctivorhinostomy was performed by a new method utilizing a vein graft for connecting the conjunctival sac and the nasal cavity without making an osteal perforation in ten eyes with canalicular obstruction or epiphora following dacryocystectomy.

As regards our results, they were as follows:

- 1- Massage: Total success rate was 81.7%.
- 2- Probing: Total success rate was 82.8%.
- 3- Dacryocystectomy: Subjective improvement of epiphora occurred in 9.1% of cases.
- 4- Dacryocystorhinostomy:
 - a- Dupuy-Dutemps technique: 81.8% objective functional improvement.
 - b- Traquair technique: 72.7% objective functional improvement.
 - c- Thaquir technique with silastic intubation: 83.3% objective functional improvement.
- 5- Conjunctivorhinostomy: Total success rate was 50% objective functional improvement.