

“Fat Graft Myringoplasty: an office procedure for small perforations”

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Introduction: perforations of tympanic membrane are treated using different surgical techniques and materials, with advantages and disadvantages. Although the use of autologous temporalis fascia is the most commonly used technique, fat miryngoplasty (FM) was also presented as simple and cost-effective one by many Authors. The aim of present study is to correlate the outcome of fat myringoplasty particularly in relation to the size and location of perforation. In optimization of the outcomes a novel concept in selection criteria and in surgical technique, is introduced.

Materials and Methods: 73 patients (29 males and 44 women) affected by tympanic membrane perforation (up to 1/4 of membrane), underwent fat myringoplasty as an office procedure. Outcome was evaluated after 1 week, 1-6 months and 1 year.

Results: One year after surgery, 80,8% of perforations were closed. Closure ratio for small perforations is higher than in large ones (93,7% vs 70,7%); posterior perforations also show better closure rates (90,5%); than anterior ones (67,7%). Poor results are seen in fat myringoplasty for revision tympanoplasty (52.9%). Conclusions: Authors stress the importance of carefully evaluating the remnant eardrum, in order to preview the real size of perforation. Fat myringoplasty could be considered a first choice technique in the treatment of small posterior and inferior perforations.