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Percutaneous radiofrequency cordotomy for cancer pain management under CT- guidance

Radiofrequency (RF) thermal lesion is one of the neurodestructive pain modalities. By this method the pain clinician has an excellent opportunity to produce a controllable lesion size, accurately and safely, three inquiries should be fulfilled, 1st the exact location of the pain target and its anatomical relations should be well known from the related anatomical data, 2nd visualization of the target to be destroyed and its relation to the RF needle electrode system by the use of different imaging modalities, 3rd functional confirmation gained by proper stimulation before lesion production and competent RF unit and specific kits to produce controllable lesion. Cordotomy is one of the neuroablative procedures aiming to destroy pain-transmitting fibers within the spinal cord by the use of specific RF electrode system percutaneously & under CT- guidance; it is performed under local anesthesia, at the level of C1-C2, indicated mainly in patients with unilateral cancer pain below the level of the shoulder, contraindicated in severe respiratory distress. The success rate is more than 90% with excellent quality of pain relief, which lasts for more than one year and is associated only with the loss of pinprick sensation and temperature discrimination with preservation of the motor power and all other sensory modalities including touch sensation. Transient ipsilateral lower limb motor weakness, contralateral mirror pain may occur and just for a couple of days. So, it is a highly selective safe pain relief procedure with the excellent outcome for properly selected cancer patients.

Biography

Ahmed Helmy A Abouel Soud has completed his MBBCH Medicine and Surgery, at the age of 22 years from Cairo University School of Medicine and also postdoctoral studies from Cairo University School of Medicine. He is Professor and Head of Pain Relief Unit, NCI, Cairo University, a board member of the Egyptian Society for Pain Management. He participated in many international pain conferences as a guest speaker and chairperson, and instructor of many pain workshops.

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