

Long-Term Outcomes of Management of Inferior Alveolar Neuropathy Following Orthognatic Surgeries in Patients with Mandibular Anomalies and Deformities

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Abstract

Introduction. Orthognatic surgery is a routine method to manage mandibular anomalies and deformities.

Objective: To assess long-term outcomes of rhythmic peripheral magnetic stimulation (rPMS) in patients with neuropathy of the inferior alveolar nerve (IAN) resulting from the surgical treatment of mandibular anomalies and deformities.

Materials and methods. The study included 8 males and 16 females aged 32 ± 12 years with IAN neuropathy following the surgical treatment of mandibular anomalies and deformities. Therapeutic rPMS was performed with the Neuro-MS magnetic stimulator (Neurosoft, Ivanovo, Ivanovo Region, Russian Federation). Trigeminal and brainstem acoustic evoked potentials (EPs) were registered with Neuro-MVP (Neurosoft) to assess rPMS both at baseline (in 10 days) and in long term (in 18 ± 2 months).

Results. Sensory disorders and pain prevailed in postoperative IAN neuropathy. Sensory disorders improved in 20 patients following 10-day rPMS. The clinical effect persisted in re-assessment. In long term, acoustic brainstem EPs normalized and trigeminal EPs did not change negatively.

Conclusion. The use of rPMS in IAN neuropathy following orthognatic surgeries contributes to the functional improvement and stabilization of the peripheral and central brainstem and the trigeminal system.

Keywords: IAN neuropathy; brainstem auditory evoked potentials; trigeminal evoked potentials; orthognatic surgery

Ethics approval. The study was conducted after receiving the informed consent of the patients. The study protocol was approved by the Ethics Committee of the Research Center of Neurology (Protocol No. 11/4-19, 20 November 2019).

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Отдалённые результаты лечения нейропатии нижних луночковых нервов после ортогнатической коррекции аномалий и деформаций нижней челюсти

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Аннотация

Введение. Ортогнатические операции являются наиболее распространённым методом лечения аномалий и деформаций лицевого черепа.

Цель исследования — оценка отдалённых результатов применения ритмической периферической магнитной стимуляции (рПМС) при нейропатии нижних луночковых нервов (НЛН), возникшей в результате хирургического лечения аномалий и деформаций нижней челюсти.

Материалы и методы. В исследование были включены 8 мужчин и 16 женщин в возрасте 32 ± 12 лет с нейропатией НЛН после ортогнатической коррекции аномалий и деформаций нижней челюсти. Для лечебной рПМС использовали магнитный стимулятор «Нейро-МС» («Нейрософт»). При оценке отдалённых результатов эффективности рПМС (через 18 ± 2 мес), как и при первом исследовании (через 10 дней), регистрировали акустические стволовые и тригеминальные вызванные потенциалы на приборе «Нейро-МВП» («Нейрософт»).

Результаты. В неврологической картине постоперационной нейропатии НЛН преобладали чувствительные и болевые нарушения. Клинический эффект в виде уменьшения чувствительных нарушений после 10-дневного курса рПМС наблюдался у 20 пациентов и сохранялся при повторном обследовании. В отдалённом периоде также отмечены нормализация параметров акустических стволовых вызванных потенциалов и отсутствие отрицательных изменений при исследовании тригеминальных вызванных потенциалов.

Заключение. Применение рПМС при нейропатии НЛН, возникшей после ортогнатических операций, способствует улучшению и стабилизации функции периферических и центральных структур ствола моза и тригеминальной системы.

Ключевые слова: нейропатия нижних луночковых нервов; акустические стволовые вызванные потенциалы; тригеминальные вызванные потенциалы; ортогнатические операции

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Introduction

Orthognatic surgery is a routine method to manage mandibular deformities. Its benefits include easier mastication, reduced tenderness in the temporomandibular joints, and better facial esthetics. Necessary osteotomy is performed in close proximity from the inferior alveolar nerve (IAN) [1]. Sensory disorders (numbness or pain in the lower lip, the chin, the teeth, and the gums) are reported in 16.2% of the patients. Though usually temporary, paresthesiae may be permanent [2].

Following orthognatic surgeries for mandibular anomalies and deformities, prevalence of IAN neuropathy varies from 1.3% to 18%. Postoperative sensory disorders in the lower lip and the chin develop in 9–85% of the patients [1, 3, 4].

IAN is often injured as a result of interventions in the mandible and the facial soft tissues or IAN injury [4, 5]. IAN injury may imply full or partial nerve dissection, strain, compression, crush, or ischemia [6]. Depending on the severity of nerve fiber injury, neuropraxia, axonotmesis, or neurotmesis may develop [7]. Damage

to the myelin sheath causes demyelination that impairs signal conduction and thus sensitivity. Demyelination of varied severity develops in neuropraxia and axonotmesis [7–9].

Specific IAN injury symptoms include loss of sensitivity in the lower lip on the affected side, the chin, and the gum. When occluding their teeth, the patient feels wrenching pain and discomfort, which affects their quality of life, mastication, speech, and facial expressions while the patient is often unsatisfied with management [1, 2, 10, 11].

Management of traumatic trigeminal neuropathy is a challenge. Physiotherapy is recommended in combination with antidepressants or (rarely) as a single approach. Use of rhythmic transcranial magnetic stimulation (rTMS) is limited with variability of protocols and outcomes [12, 13]. Rhythmic peripheral magnetic stimulation (rPMS) can modulate cortical chain reactions and cortical spinal excitability. Unlike rTMS, rPMS exposes certain body parts rather than their projections on the brain cortex.

Unlike electric stimulation, magnetic stimulation exposes deeper tissues, accelerating neurotransmission and not activating any skin receptors [14, 15].

rPMS is typically used to manage pain and spasticity. However, the published studies covered only a few cases and various protocols [16–18].

Noteworthy, there are no unequivocal recommendations on the use of magnetic stimulation in patients with traumatic trigeminal neuropathy yet [19]. Some studies show that magnetic stimulation relieves pain and accelerates regeneration of the injured nerves [20, 21].

Objective: to assess long-term rPMS outcomes in patients with IAN neuropathy resulting from the surgical treatment of mandibular anomalies and deformities.

Materials and methods

The study included 8 males and 16 females aged 32 ± 12 years with IAN neuropathy following the sur-

gical treatment of mandibular anomalies and deformities [10]. Approved by the Ethics Committee of the Research Center of Neurology (Protocol No. 11/4-19, 11/20/2019), the study continues those published before [10, 22].

Seventeen patients had permanent, similarly intense, aching or contracting pain. The pain was localized individually in the same area: the lower lip, the chin, a mandibular tooth or several mandibular teeth, an alveolar mandibular site. The pain irradiated subzygomatically (posteriorly) in all the patients. Four patients did not feel the painful side of the lower lip they consequently bit when eating or speaking. Besides, the patients complained of gum contracting feeling. Those patients felt hyperesthesia with pain, cold, and tactile hyperpathia and warmth hypesthesia in the chin, the lower lip, and the mandibular gum and teeth. In palpation of the pain area, they also felt sharp tenderness. Three patients with IAN neuropathy felt stabbing, burning pain in the lower lip. All the patients reported decreased sensitivity in the IAN innervated area.

Therapeutic rPMS was performed with the Neuro-MS magnetic stimulator (Neurosoft, Ivanovo, Ivanovo Region, Russian Federation). The procedures were performed daily for 15–20 min during 10 days, with 1.0–1.5 T stimuli and 1 Hz frequency. The patients received no pharmaceuticals to stimulate reparation and to improve neurological functions [10].

The patients were followed up in 18 ± 2 months to reassess long-term rPMS efficiency. Evoked potentials (EPs) including brainstem auditory evoked potentials (BAEPs) and trigeminal EPs (TEPs) were recorded by the Neuro-MEP (Neurosoft, Ivanovo, Ivanovo Region, Russian Federation) [10, 22, 23].

Results

Immediately post 10-day rPMS treatment, 20 patients demonstrated significantly decreased sensory disorders while 4 patients still showed facial paresthesiae. BAEPs changed positively, but TEPs did not change significantly [10, 22].

Table 1. BAEPs before treatment and in 18 ± 2 months after rPMS (median)

Group	Latency, msec			Interpeak interval, msec			Amplitude, μ V		
	I	III	V	I-III	III-V	I-V	I	III	V
Normal	$1,7 \pm 0,1$	$3,9 \pm 0,2$	$5,7 \pm 0,2$	$2,1 \pm 0,2$	$1,9 \pm 0,2$	$4,0 \pm 0,2$	$0,3 \pm 0,1$	$0,2 \pm 0,1$	$0,4 \pm 0,2$
Right and left ears:									
post 10-day rPMS treatment	1,6	3,5	5,4	2,0	1,9	3,9	0,3	0,3	0,5
in 18 months post rPMS	1,6	3,6	5,5	2,0	1,9	3,9	0,3	0,3	0,5

Note. I, III, V, BAEP peaks.

Table 2. TEP parameters before and in 18 ± 2 months after rPMS treatment (median)

Group	Threshold, mA	TEP components, msec			Amplitude, μ V	
		P1	N1	P2	P1-N1, μ V	N1-P2, μ V
Normal	5,7	19,2	33,0	49,0	1,9	1,9
Left and right stimulation:						
post 10-day rPMS treatment	5,1	19,8	31,3	43,5	2,0	1,9
in 18 months post rPMS treatment	5,2	20,1	31,7	44,5	2,0	1,9

Clinically, we noted improvement, with reversed sensitivity disorders and better subjective status in 83% of the patients in 18 ± 2 months. BAEPs normalized as well (Table 1), which may indicate rPMS stabilizing general processes and auditory brainstem response.

Post initial 10-day rPMS treatment, TEP changes indicated non-significant bilateral trigeminal dysfunction (Table 2). In 18 ± 2 months, TEPs did not show any negative changes. Therefore, rPMS use contributes to the improvement and the stabilization of the trigeminal system and the brainstem in IAN neuropathy.

Discussion

rPMS is a method of noninvasive stimulation of nerves, muscles, spinal nerve roots, and the autonomic nervous system. rPMS affects excitability of sensory terminals under the coil, which causes functional neuron changes and neuroplasticity. rPMS is relatively painless and may be easily used in clinical setting. Currently, rPMS is widely used for rehabilitation [24].

Magnetic stimulation acts due to the generated magnetic field that induces the electric field, which depolarizes axons. However, the mechanisms of magnetic fields acting to peripheral nerves are still unclear [25, 26]. The effect of the magnetic field on cells may be explained by its impact on the molecular structure of excitable cell membranes followed by the change in the function of insert ion specific channels [27]. Voltage-controlled potassium, sodium, and calcium ion channels are affected by the magnetic field, which

makes neurons highly sensitive to the effects of the magnetic field [28–30].

Another possible mechanism is the magnetocaloric effect resulting from magnetic nanoparticle activity in the external magnetic field [31]. Despite lack of evidence for the relation between the magnetocaloric effect and nerve regeneration in the magnetic field, the experimental studies showed that temperature elevation to 37–42°C may positively affect neuron number increase [32].

The effect of the magnetic field on peripheral nerves is also associated with increase in growth factors and decrease in pro-inflammatory factors. rPMS has vaso-protective, anti-inflammatory, and antiedematous effects and improves trophicity in the injured site. rPMS is getting wider renowned as a method of neuromodulation in sensomotor disorders.

Our earlier study demonstrated efficiency of rPMS in patients with traumatic trigeminal neuropathy. Restored sensitivity as a positive effect of 10-day rPMS treatment significantly improved quality of life in most patients [10, 22].

The positive rPMS outcomes in patients with IAN neuropathy after orthognathic surgeries for mandibular anomalies and deformities in long term (18 ± 2 months) substantiate necessity of this method as part of individual rehabilitation.

Nevertheless, the development of main principles of rPMS use post orthognathic surgeries requires methodological and clinical studies including larger samples.

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